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O SHOW HARMONY



CINDY JIANG/PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF
A cappella groups, like the All Nighters (pictured here), serenaded freshmen during the annual Orientation Show in Shriver Hall.

Response to Commons flood angers residents

By **MORGAN OME**
Layout Editor

Students activated a fire sprinkler in their dorm room on the 12th floor of the Charles St. Building of Charles Commons, which led to flooding and an evacuation on Sunday, Sept. 4. The Housing Office has not clarified the cause of the incident.

Students living in the building were not allowed into their rooms Sunday afternoon and evening. Twelve students have been temporarily relocated to alternative on-campus housing while their rooms in Charles Commons are repaired.

Director of Housing

and Operations Tracey Angel described how the University has been responding to the emergency.

"Maintenance and custodial staffs, Housing and Residential Life staff responded. PBI Restoration Resources was called in to respond to the water and related damage right away, per our normal protocol. The work continued until very early Monday morning," Angel wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "The cost of damages has not been determined yet, as work continues to restore the spaces to normal... [W]e take the information we learn and use it to make changes to improve for

the future."

Sophomore Emily Tatum was one of the twelve students who was moved out of Charles Commons. She is currently sharing a single in AMR I with one of her suitemates. Tatum expressed disappointment with the way the University handled her suite's clean-up and relocation.

"Mostly it was just the floors that were soaked and there was one section of my wall that was really wet. But when they put the fans in, they took all of our wet stuff and put it onto our dry beds. That made our mattresses and sheets, which we were going to take to new beds, completely wet. And because they had to move

everything around, my room was totally disorganized," Tatum said.

Another relocated student, sophomore Tess DeBerry also was upset with her temporary accommodations.

"My three roommates and I were given a single in Wolman without bedding. Yes, four of us in a single," DeBerry wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "[When] we were allowed to finally go upstairs and see the damage to our rooms, our rooms were torn apart: shoes, clothes and

SEE FLOOD, PAGE A6

New Provost Kumar shares vision

Diversity and academic affairs top his agenda

By **SHERRY KIM**
News & Features Editor

Sunil Kumar became University provost and senior vice president for academic affairs effective Sept. 1. He succeeded Robert C. Lieberman, who stepped down from the position to join the political science department and continue researching race and inequality.

Previously dean of the University of Chicago Booth School of Business and George Pratt Shultz Professor of Operations Management, Kumar strengthened Chicago's financial resources, improved diversity in student recruitment and expanded academic pro-

grams for the undergraduate body.

At the Booth School of Business, Kumar helped raise excess annual revenues of over \$300 million, supervised the increased enrollment of women from 35 percent to 42 percent and helped establish the Polsky Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation to aid researchers across the school translate research into products for new technology and start-up businesses.

As the first Asian-American provost at the University, Kumar envisions diversity and inclusion as a crucial part of his vision.

"To characterize how I see my role, it is to have

an unambiguous institutional commitment to diversity," Kumar said. "This is important to me personally. There is no single action or strategy that will solely suffice."

Elaborating on the University's Roadmap on Diversity and Inclusion initially released in the spring of 2016, Kumar explained that the roadmap should not be seen as an exhaustive list of priorities.

"The idea of a roadmap is in the notion of distance and direction," he said. "You need to first do a baseline measurement to know where you are. Then you can use this to see which actions

SEE PROVOST, PAGE A5

Quad construction disrupts students

By **KELSEY KO**
News & Features Editor

Students returning to campus have had to adjust to major construction on the Keyser Quad and the Breezeway. Since June major portions of the quad have been fenced off. New detours and construction noise in the area have confused and inconvenienced some students.

Jim Peach, the associate director for design and construction at Johns Hopkins Facilities and Real Estate (JHFRE), spoke to *The News-Letter* about the current status of the Krieger Hall waterproofing project, and what students can expect in the upcoming year.

"We've progressed about 25 percent through the schedule and expected completion is still slated to be late summer or early fall of 2017," Peach said. "Right now the



KAREEM OSMAN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Construction on the Keyser Quad is expected to end by fall of 2017.

colonnade has been disassembled, so all of the marble pieces that were all in the colonnade were carefully inventoried and stored, and we're preparing to start waterproofing the walkway slab. Along the Krieger facade we're removing marble stones in preparation of some waterproofing materials there."

Hopkins students voiced mixed reactions to the construction.

Seniors Yasmine Kaminsky and Mallika Iyer understand that the construction is necessary but still an inconvenience to the student body, citing that it can be disruptive to those who would normally study nearby on the Brody Terrace.

"I don't think I'm going to study out here [on the Terrace] very much. Over the weekend they weren't here, so it was nice, but I'm just now noticing that I probably

won't be outside," Kaminsky said. "I know it has to happen, but it's unfortunate timing."

Iyer said that the terrace was a good place to relax and study.

"I know they don't have much of a choice in terms of the construction, so I wouldn't blame anyone necessarily, but I do think it's a nuisance," she said. "It's also kind of complicated to navigate because at first I had no idea how I was supposed to get over there."

Junior Hailey Jordan remarked that the University usually has some sort of construction happening each year, so it has not affected her experience walking around campus.

"There's usually something always going on, so it's not much different than any other year. If anything, I look more lost even though I'm a

SEE KRIEGER, PAGE A4

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Should you try to catch 'em all?

Opinions editor Gillian Lechuk defends the Pokémon Go craze sweeping the world.

OPINIONS,
PAGE A11



Exploring Bruce Willis' first film

Arts and Entertainment Editors Mia Capobianco and Dubray Kinney begin a new column devoted to critiquing Bruce Willis movies. **ARTS, PAGE B4**

Edible food packaging

A solution to needless packaging? In the future you may be able to eat it. **SCITECH, PAGE B7**

NEWS & FEATURES

O'Connor Fund backs campus entrepreneurs

By **SAM FOSSUM**
News & Features Editor

This semester marks the beginning of the third year for the Ralph S. O'Connor Undergraduate Entrepreneurship Fund, a Johns Hopkins Technology Ventures (JHTV) program. Since its first cohort of recipients in 2014 and 2015, the fund has added more mentorship and infrastructural support for budding entrepreneurs.

The Fund provides \$5,000-\$10,000 in grant money to undergraduates who have a company or project with a clear entrepreneurial focus. The fund was made possible through the generous gift of a Krieger School of Arts and Sciences (KSAS) alumnus, Ralph S. O'Connor. The awardees receive mentorship, business advice and other support tools to help develop their ideas.

Senior Noah Presler, a founder of Semester.ly, an online course scheduling platform, is one of the startup founders in the O'Connor Fund's 2015/2016 cohort. He noted that the fund aims to not only promote existing established businesses, but also to help student entrepreneurs regardless of the status of their idea or project.

"The O'Connor fund isn't just about taking an already flourishing business and helping promote it and helping it to grow. They don't have this fiduciary duty to institutional investors to make returns. It's grant money. There is no equity dilution, and that's attractive," Presler said. "It's more about promoting ideas and helping you get your ideas off the ground and show you that even when you are at that early stage you can get support for entrepreneurship at the University."

Presler highlighted the fund's structure and networking support as its two most beneficial aspects.

"The structure of it was what was really helpful in addition to the resources that they provide. Basically, we got tons of mentors out of it. We met with some of the biggest leaders in ed-tech and entrepreneurship in the Baltimore area," Presler said.

Sophomore Parth Singh, a team member of MoTrack Therapy, which integrates hand therapy with motion sensing games, explained in an email to *The News-Letter* that the program provided free legal counsel, experienced business mentorship and other JHTV resources.

"The O'Connor Fund really takes you under their wing. Before the O'Connor Fund, we didn't really have anyone to go to for business advice, which is the area we (and most undergraduate entrepreneurs) have the least experience in," Singh wrote. "That is in many ways more important than the money because having access to information and people helps us build the product that is most likely to be bought."

According to JHTV's Student Venture Coordinator Kasim Ahmad, these social resources are crucial for improving the program. He stressed the need to continue improving the structure and support the fund provides for new student entrepreneurs.

"That peer mentorship can be the most valuable learning that you get, and

it's always helpful to talk to a later stage entrepreneur because at one time they were in your situation," Ahmad said. "I think the teams that were in the earlier stages did look to the other teams to see how they were doing and see how they could connect."

Ahmad further elaborated on how this year's recipients would receive greater networking opportunities.

"For this upcoming year, each team will be assigned a core mentor, but we will also try to connect them with other people and organize more networking events and get them even broader access," Ahmad said.

Shrenik Jain, a team member of Beacon, which is a mobile platform for anonymous group therapy, spoke to the helpfulness of the JHTV's staff, their fellow cohort peers and the mentorship of the O'Connor Fund.

"We benefitted not only from our assigned mentor, but also other experienced professionals in the Tech Ventures ecosystem, as well as the company of fellow student entrepreneurs in our cohort. While student entrepreneurship at JHU is definitely lagging compared to peer institutions, this grant and program is a step in the right direction," Jain wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

However, Jain also mentioned that he and his team did experience issues with how the grant money was distributed.

"The only significant issue we really ran into was difficulties in actually obtaining our \$10,000. The way the grant was structured meant we either had use the grant only for reimbursements through an academic department, or navigate JHU's slow and complex vendor system. Since startups develop quickly on very tight timelines, this was a bit of a hassle," Jain wrote.

In response, Ahmad, stated that he and his team were already taking steps to incorporate the feedback from this year's cohort.

In a significant change from previous years, the O'Connor Fund will start accepting applications this September and will have the third cohort selected by the end of November. This will prevent past logistical issues since the program used to run through the summer months.

The fund's most recent cohort of entrepreneurs included six startups: MoTrack, Semester.ly, Beacon, Touch Plus, Brevvite, Proscia. In order to receive funding and support from the O'Connor fund, applicants first fill out a written application and then are interviewed by a committee set up by JHTV.

The first few weeks of this semester offer various opportunities for undergraduate entrepreneurs.

On Sept. 20, TCO Labs will be hosting a Johns Hopkins Entrepreneurship and Innovation Showcase in Hackerman B17. It will feature presentations by student leaders in entrepreneurship and will conclude with a networking session.

Applications for the third cohort of the O'Connor Fund opened on Sept. 1 and will stay open for the remainder of the month.

Orientation 2016 fosters peer mentorship



COURTESY OF KIMBERLY ZOU

FYMs help guide and foster a sense of community for their freshmen mentees during orientation week.

By **CLAIRE FOX**
Senior Staff Writer

This year's new student orientation sought to maintain the spirit of years past while implementing new dynamic changes in a five-day program focused on welcoming and transitioning new students into the University.

Coordinator of Orientation and First-Year Experience Justin Beauchamp broke down the main goals of the orientation program.

"The most basic levels we hope the students

"With so many different events and activities it was pretty much impossible to feel bored or lonely."

— **GRACE WU,**
FRESHMAN

academics isn't exactly something that's a fun first week experience, but we learned different tactics in training to deal with situations like that."

Since Beauchamp is the only professional staff member in charge of Orientation and First Year Experience at the University, he views the student staff as vital to planning the logistics of these activities. Therefore, there are five CORE Leaders in addition to the FYMs.

The following departments make up the Core Team: Major Events, Outreach, Program Development, Logistics and Publications Coordinators. The members of the CORE Team began meeting and training for orientation at the beginning of the 2016 spring semester.

Junior Gabrielle Gauthier, CORE leader and previous FYM, noted the differences between her previous role and her current one. She noted how being a CORE leader meant she was far more involved and active in developing the orientation program.

"Compared to my previous experience, I was much more involved this year and I got to take a more active role in developing the orientation program," Gauthier wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "In our meetings, we would come together to discuss what we wanted students to take away from orientation, and we worked on developing our individual jobs to make sure they encom-

passed the goals that we set out for ourselves."

Serving as Outreach Coordinator for the CORE Team, Gauthier enjoyed her larger role in the new student orientation this year, as well as seeing the product of her work.

"I got to interact with students through various means of social media, help develop the Guidebook app, and speak to parents and families as they geared up to join the Blue Jay family!" she wrote. "I enjoyed being able to provide ideas and feedback from the beginning, because I was able to see those ideas come to life with this program."

In addition to improving the FYM and CORE Team, Beauchamp focused on the tradition of Baltimore Day, which involves new students visiting local areas, such as Mt. Vernon, Camden Yards and Federal Hill, among others.

"We have done a lot to make sure that day isn't just touristy, because it's also important to talk about the history and the culture of the city and issues that plague not only our city, but cities across the world," he said. "And to learn the social responsibility that we have as members of the JHU community."

Compared to last year, Li noted an improvement in the event, as student groups visited more than one location during the day this year.

"The trips were well organized, and it was a really nice way to get off campus and explore the city," she said.

Freshman Elana Neher also enjoyed exploring the community and even said that Baltimore Day, was her favorite part of Orientation.

"It was so much fun visiting the Inner Harbor and other places," she said. "Baltimore Day was

really fun because you could go out and hang out with your group but be able to do it out in Baltimore and learn about the city."

Neher continued by saying that overall, for her, Orientation was jam-packed and successful, even if she sometimes felt overwhelmed.

"It was a lot of forced activity, but that was a good thing, because it forced you to get around and meet people, which is important," Neher said.

Freshman Grace Wu thought that Orientation was packed with activities.

"With so many different events and activities it was pretty much impossible to feel bored or lonely," she wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

Freshman Divya Baron wrote that although orientation provided a host of interesting activities, this left rather little free time to spare.

"I thought orientation was pretty well run. There seemed to be a lot of interesting activities," Baron wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "One issue was that there often wasn't enough time to do other non-compulsory orientation activities and the days could get pretty long especially considering we often had an 8:30 AM start."

Baron thought the FYM discussions were the most productive and interesting.

"The discussions really allowed people to open up about issues that were important to them whilst simultaneously providing them with a safe space," she wrote.

Grace Wu echoed the sentiment that FYM discussions were beneficial.

"Our group also had a very insightful and meaningful common read discussion," Wu wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "It was fascinating to hear about each person's opinions and experiences with race and socioeconomic status."

Already looking forward to next year, Beauchamp maintains that the program should constantly be improving.

"My general philosophy is that we can always do better and that we should never be stagnant or mediocre," he said. "Getting feedback from students, FYMs and faculty and staff is vital because over the years the student population changes, so making sure that we're still serving the needs of the students is the top priority."



COURTESY OF TIMOTHY LEE

This year's orientation program strengthens inter-student exchange through a revamped FYM program.

NEWS & FEATURES

Career Center lays out road map for reform

By **MEAGAN PEOPLES**
Voices Editor

The University recently appointed Anne Garner as the executive director of the Career Center to help restructure the center's approach to student career services.

Garner previously worked as an associate director at the George Mason University Career Center before arriving at Hopkins. With a focus on specialized career advice, Garner hopes to encourage students to make use of integral but under-utilized resources that the center has to offer.

Garner addressed her priorities for reforming the career center, beginning with revamping basic services such as resumés and cover letter reviews.

"The first order of business for me was to make sure that we were offering those basic services in terms of resume reviews, cover letter reviews, how to interview, how to search careers, how to explore major and career options," Garner said.

The cornerstone for Garner's three-year plan to revitalize the Career Center comes in the form of career academies, which are distinct services and networks for students pursuing similar career paths.

"The theory behind the career academies is teaching the students how to translate what they're learning in the classroom to the world of work based on specific industry areas," Garner explained. "They're about creating a unity of people who are focused in a particular industry area so that they can teach students what to do to be prepared to go into that industry."

There are currently six types of career academies offered by the Career Center: consulting, financing, government and non-profit, arts, media and marketing, health sciences, STEM and innovation. Garner wishes to gauge student interest as well as their engagement with these different academies and adjust the system from there.

"Right now we are just doing the career academies based on what we think the students are interested in," Garner said. "But depending upon where they actually end up gravitating towards we could end up giving more support."

An example of the specific services these career academies provide is information on the hiring and training periods in different industries.

"Every industry has different hiring timelines, so if you're financing and consulting you better be ready at the front end [of the year]," Garner said. "But if you're in the arts, media and marketing, we are actually going to focus our work with them in the spring because of when their industry tends to recruit. That, I think, is an educational piece for students."

Sophomore Emma Lee commented that while the career academies seem helpful, many undergraduates will have future jobs that are innovative in ways these academies cannot foresee.

"I can see how the career academies make sense as an idea, but at the same time I feel like our generation's careers are

much more likely to be interdisciplinary, so I'm curious to how they handle that," Lee said.

Garner explained that the career academies respond to the student body's need for more individualized attention at the Career Center.

"My interpretation of [the issue] was that students weren't feeling like they were getting targeted career services. I interpret that to mean services that were particular to their career and interest," Garner said. "These academies are one step closer to where we can be to help students."

Garner also commented on the necessity of setting up an efficient feedback system for students.

"So I really haven't decided what the best way is, but I want to create the feedback loop that makes the most sense for students so that they feel like their voices are heard," Garner said. "Being in an executive director role I'm not going to see students on a regular basis, but I need that input because these programs and services, they're designed to support students. If I'm not getting that input, then I am not going to be effective in supporting the student population."

Ultimately, Garner wants to increase the use of parents and alumni as a resource for students by integrating them into career academies.

"Long term, my goal is to build up those academies so that they become really robust," Garner said. "They become a place where students feel like it's not just going to the career center, it's like 'Wow, I have this whole network of people here on campus and outside of the campus, so in person and virtually that I can reach out to once I understand what my interests are and that can help me reach my goal.'"

Hopkins junior pioneers medical startups

By **MICHAEL FEDER**
For *The News-Letter*

Junior Param Shah, the co-founder and CEO of prosthetic and orthotic Baltimore startup Fusiform Medical, has been named one of *Baltimore Business Journal's* 40 under 40. The annual list spotlights young business leaders in the city hand-picked by the *Journal's* editorial staff from a pool of more than 350 nominations and recommendations.

A high school service trip to the Himalayas served as a turning point in Shah's career. During the trip, Shah installed sanitation and provided medical education to remote Indian villages.

"I worked with another nonprofit to do sanitation and lifestyle improvement programs over there, so we travelled through the villages, basically going to every village and building sewage systems, or

"I realized that you didn't need to be a doctor to save people."

— **PARAM SHAH,**
CO-FOUNDER AND
CEO OF FUSIFORM

Almost one in fifty children had some kind major muscular disorder there, and basically I decided that something had to be done about it."

While still in high school, he founded the Lotus Life Foundation, which aims to eradicate stigma associated with disabilities through the education of poor rural communities in India. The foundation has already built a school in Karanjveri, a rural area in the Gujarat region of Western India to educate children with disabili-



COURTESY OF PARAM SHAH
Junior Param Shah, CEO of Fusiform Medical, named one of *Baltimore Business Journal's* 40 under 40.

ties.

"When I'm telling [Indian] parents that there is medical treatment that can help their child walk again, it's something they can't fathom. Lotus Life's goal really isn't to provide orthotics and prosthetics. It's a means to an end, that end being eradicating the stigma associated with disabilities, so you can provide orthotics and

prosthetics, treat a kid and show the community that he is capable of becoming healthy," Shah said.

"It's all about changing a mindset, and if you're changing a mindset there needs to be education involved. So what we do is we try to partner with grassroots nonprofits to empower them to provide the treatment [the patients] require."

Shah came to Hopkins as a Hodson Trust Scholar to study computer science when he met Alex Mathews, another Hodson Trust Scholar. Shah had been discussing with a friend how difficult it was to make an orthotic device that grows along with the child, rather

than one that had to be replaced every few months.

"Alex just happened to be walking by at the time... Our mutual friend said, 'Hey Alex come and listen...' and so Alex sat down and we started talking. I was talking about using biomaterials, you know, something really crazy," Shah said. "But Alex heard that and he actually called me the next morning and said, 'I want to talk about this. I mean not using biomaterials, but I know what could work.' And we started working on Fusiform that day."

The idea was to make an orthotic device that could be cheaply and efficiently tailor made for every individual patient. Shah calls it "the Tesla of orthotic devices." A doctor or clinician could scan the body part, and the orthotic could be 3D printed within an hour. The orthotic and prosthetic clinics that Param pitched the device to loved the idea.

However, Param not only wanted to change how orthotics are produced. He wanted to fundamentally change how medical devices were distributed to those who needed them.

"What I really grew fascinated with was the supply chain. I like looking at a full company's

operations and putting it into blocks," Shah said. "I looked into the orthotics and prosthetics supply chain and I realized that there wasn't a problem with the device, but there was a fundamental problem with how these devices are made and delivered."

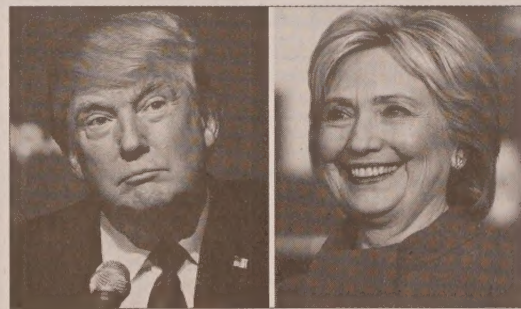
Following this observation, Shah then realized that to reach the people most in need of help, he could make a software available to all companies building orthotic devices.

"We started working on a software mainly just to deliver our devices. Then there was another thing, why don't we open up to all companies, to allow all of them to do it? Essentially, what we realized was that we could use our software to custom build any device, anywhere," Shah said. "And that breakthrough happened about a month ago, and since then, every day has been play-by-play. It's been a whirlwind. I'd say that was the seminal moment that we knew this company could be huge."

Shah himself is surprised with the path his life has taken.

"I never thought I'd become an entrepreneur," Shah said. "As I said, I was here to be a doctor. But I realized that you didn't need to be a doctor to save people."

National and local candidates prepare for election season



GAGE SKIDMORE & BU ROBERT CC BY-SA 4.0
Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton will compete in the November polls.

By **PETER JI**
Senior Staff Writer

With just nine weeks remaining until election day on Nov. 8, Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton has a comfortable edge in national polls although she continues to struggle with high unfavorability ratings.

Doubts linger about her character due to her use of a private email server for confidential emails and her meetings with major donors of the Clinton Foundation while she served as Secretary of State.

These issues have kept Clinton's unfavorable numbers high. According to an Aug. 31 ABC News/*Washington Post* poll, she has an unfavorability rating of 59

percent. According to this poll, both Clinton and Republican nominee Donald Trump remain a largely distasteful choice for most voters, each facing high unfavorable ratings among registered voters.

Fresh off a series of controversial public comments over the summer, Trump has attempted to court minority voters. He faces a serious deficit against Clinton with minority voters. Trump seemed to be changing his tone following a meeting with Mexico's President Enrique Peña Nieto on Sept. 1. However, he maintained his hard stance on immigration in a speech later that day, promising to build the border wall and opposing amnesty

for illegal immigrants in the U.S.

Sophomore Camila Montejo, on behalf of the board of the Hopkins Latin student group OLÉ (Organización Latina Estudiantil), stated that Trump's solutions are based on exaggerated fears of immigrants, and that rising anti-immigrant sentiment is partly to blame for the estimated 11 million undocumented people who live in the U.S.

"The reason that we have illegal immigration is because the system is not accessible to Mexicans and other immigrants and it is difficult to begin the naturalization process," Montejo said. "It's also the treatment of these immigrants once they get to this country. They are degraded in society, in the news, everywhere. It's discouraging to even try to put themselves out there to become citizens."

OLÉ said they support easing the naturalization process for immigrants, and that despite Trump's numerous claims about deportation and a border wall, conditions in their home countries are the primary concern for Hispanic immigrants.

Montejo thought that Trump's meeting with Peña Nieto was a pretension.

"Immigration laws should be in place because there are economic and political reasons for them, but that they should be more accessible, especially for South American immigrants," Montejo said. "I believe that the claims that immigrants take jobs, commit crimes are blown out of scale."

In local Maryland politics, one of the state's two seats in the Senate is being sought by Republican Kathy Szeliga, Democrat Chris Van Hollen and Green Party candidate Margaret Flowers.

Szeliga, a Baltimore native, graduated from Towson University at the age of 32 and became the highest-ranking Republican woman of the Maryland legislature. She has also taught at Baltimore's public schools. While Van Hollen is regarded as the more experienced candidate, Szeliga has said that she will bring "business sense" to Washington. No recent polls have been conducted, but Maryland is a reliably blue state.

In the mayoral race,

Democratic nominee Catherine Pugh overcame her biggest challenge for mayoral office in the April 26 primary. She narrowly beat challenger and former Baltimore mayor Sheila Dixon. Pugh is widely expected to win in Baltimore. A Republican has not won in Baltimore since 1967. She has raised \$280,000 for her campaign according to public campaign records, nearly 100 times the amount held by Republican opponent Alan Walden.

Raising the minimum wage in Baltimore to \$15 an hour by 2022 is among the major issues this year. The current minimum wage is \$8.75 an hour. Walden opposes the policy on the grounds that it will harm businesses and decrease jobs. However, the City Council is considering an exemption for small businesses. Pugh has not taken a position on the issue. The bill will go before the City Council following the November election.

Maryland residents have until Oct. 18 to register to vote either in person or through Maryland's Online Voter Registration System.

New residents consider pros and cons of Nine East 33rd Krieger project to end fall 2017



CINDY JIANG/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Current residents of Nine East 33rd praised the upscale amenities and conveniences of the new building.

By ROLLIN HU
News & Features Editor

Nine East 33rd, commonly known as “The New Building,” first opened its doors to student residents on Aug. 21. The building’s upper levels are designated as off-campus student housing, with retail space on its first floor.

Building construction began the summer of 2015 and Randi Kaltrider, director of operations for Nine E 33rd, elaborated on the current status of the building.

“Residential is completed,” Kaltrider said. “The only amenities we are working on is our quad space, which is on our green roof and on top of our parking garage. That is expected to be completed in a few weeks. We also have a couple of study rooms on the upper floor pending completion.”

Kaltrider said that the move-in process went smoothly.

“It was amazing because the team came up with a great plan in order to get students in through the check-in process and up to their apartments really quickly,” Kaltrider said. “We hired movers and rented moving bins to assist with that process, so it’s been very positive feedback from our family and our residents here.”

Currently, 78.6 percent of the housing units in the building are occupied. Five of the eight retail spaces are leased, with the CVS already open.

New student residents

responded positively to the living space, but found there to be some areas needing improvement.

Senior Elizabeth Keckeisen, who is also a community assistant for Nine E 33rd, stressed the convenience and built-in furnishings of the apartment as a major positive attribute of living in the building.

“I love it, it’s really convenient and close to everything,” Keckeisen said. “It’s furnished, which is great and means I don’t have to furnish my own apartment. It’s been good so far. Everything’s new. [Having a] Washer-dryer in unit is probably my favorite part.”

Junior Anuj Mehndiratta noted how the building was a good environment for fostering a community for upper-classmen.

“I think it’s good, it’s a nice space,” Mehndiratta said. “It’s nice to have a place where the juniors and seniors are all living together.”

When moving-in, several students found issues with appliances and leftover signs of construction.

“When we first moved in it was really dirty, and it had builder’s glue on the counter and construction dust,” Mehndiratta said. “You could definitely see that they could have used a few extra days to make sure everything was clean and ready to go, for sure. It kind of seemed like they rushed the opening because kids were getting here.”

Regarding appliance fixes, Wessells found that the response time was prompt and the services were effective.

“Our washing machine didn’t open but they fixed it that day,” Wessells said. “And our fridge turned off basically, but they fixed it the next day.”

Keckeisen noted that problems are inevitable in a newly constructed space, but sees the situation improving soon.

“I think with new construction, there’s always some issues but I think everything is being taken care of in a timely manner. So obviously there was some stuff that wasn’t initially working but by now when everyone has moved in and settled in, everything is going well,” Keckeisen said. “It’s getting less and less crazy around here.”

Kaltrider echoed this

sentiment, acknowledging the issues and the need for prompt responses.

“It’s just the normal growing pains of the building,” Kaltrider said. “Whenever there is an issue with a machine, we have gone up with our team, assessed whether or not it can be repaired or if it’s a warranty issue and needs replacement. That’s been going pretty well.”

Several students noted that similarities between the apartments of Nine E 33rd and the suites in Charles Commons.

“They’re basically Commons but nicer,” Wessells said.

Mehndiratta disliked the similarity of the building to the dorm-like atmosphere of Commons.

“It’s designed not so much like an apartment building but as a dorm,” Mehndiratta said. “If that is the intention, this is great. But they advertised it to us as an apartment building, and it doesn’t really feel as much as apartments or condos as [it does] dorms, in terms of layouts.”

Regarding the lease price, students acknowledged that it was on the more expensive side but that it was still competitive for the services provided.

“I think it’s a little pricey,” Mehndiratta said. “When you compare it to [The Village] Lofts, I think Lofts is 50 dollars more per month, and you’re getting much larger living spaces, much larger bedrooms, way nicer bathrooms, all the appliances, everything is much bigger and nicer. That’s the only real direct competition.”

Kecken highlighted the buildings many amenities in response.

“It is pricey but you have a gym, you have 24-hour maintenance emergency response, and I think the furnished thing is huge,” Keckeisen said. “All of the furniture this year is brand new, really nice, all the appliances, everything is included in the rent price so utilities, heat, AC, water everything.”

The only retail space currently filled is CVS. Four of the other seven spaces have been leased to food vendors and are under construction. These leased businesses are THB Bagels and Deli, Honeygrow, which features stir-fry bowls and build-your-own desserts, Peka Peka Ramen, and Bird in Hand, a coffee shop and bookstore.

According to the retail team for Nine E 33rd, both Honeygrow and Bird in Hand plan on opening in October 2016. THB Bagels and Deli will be open by the end of the year, and Peko Peko Ramen in early 2017.

Sophomore Timothy Lee appreciates the increased variety in food options near campus.

“I’m excited for the coming ramen place,” Lee said. “The greater diversity of cultural on-campus options will add a lot to campus.”

Sophomore Matt Naeher noted how nice the new building and eventual new stores will look.

“Just aesthetically, St. Paul Street has gone through great improvements through these new stores,” Naeher said.

KRIEGER FROM A1

junior,” Jordan said. “It’s been fairly easy [to take the detours] and it’s not too much of a difference. It’s not as much of an inconvenience as I thought it would be.”

Freshman Youlim Song struggled with the detours marked by the construction crews and found the new routes complicated. She noted that it was difficult for freshmen to find buildings for classes on Keyser Quad because of the construction.

“It is a little confusing because usually you would see the buildings through the quad, and then you’d be able to recognize it, but because there’s a huge amount of construction going on, it’s kind of hard to identify which buildings are around the quad,” Song said. “I guess it does definitely phase me a little bit, but I’m trying to get used to going to the building that they direct you to.”

Sophomore Mingyu Yang, who has one class in Krieger Hall, said students will more likely miss gathering on the popular hang-out area of Keyser Quad than care as much about the noise or construction.

“The construction has had little effect on my journey to and from classes,” Yang said. “If anything, as a first year mentor, I’m more disappointed that my freshmen will be missing out on the quintessentially ‘Hopkins’ view of Gilman from across the quad.”

But many students also expressed understanding that the long-term benefits outweighed the short-term disruptions. Associate Director of Design and Construction Jim Peach stated that the feedback that JHRE has received so far has been mostly positive.

“The information that we’ve received back has been that the planning has been very comprehensive and people were [...] adjusting very well to it,” Peach said.



CINDY JIANG/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Many students acknowledged the “growing pains” of the building, most notably the debris and construction.

U.S. Department of Justice confirms systemic racism within Baltimore Police

BPD FROM A1

disrespectful to officers.

An underlying characteristic behind these police abuses was their discriminatory nature, particularly against the African-American community.

“Racially disparate impact is present at every of BPD’s enforcement actions, from the initial decision to stop individuals on Baltimore streets to searches, arrests and uses of force,” the report stated.

Black pedestrians and drivers are both stopped and searched at disproportionate rates.

The report found that BPD stopped black residents three times as often as white residents after controlling for the population of the area. Black drivers were 82 percent of all BPD vehicle stops while being only 60 percent of the driving age population

in the city.

Furthermore, the BPD is found to have charged African-Americans with discretionary offenses, or offenses that are given out by the judgment of the officer. Such offenses are “failure to obey,” “disorderly conduct” or “trespassing.” African Americans were 84 percent of all the individuals arrested for “disorderly conduct.” The report also notes that the BPD failed to hold officers accountable for using racial slurs

or making other racially charged statements.

The report attributes this pattern to systemic deficiencies in training and accountability at the BPD.

“Providing policing services in many parts of Baltimore is particularly challenging where officers regularly confront complex social problems rooted in poverty, racial segregation and deficient educational, employment and housing opportunities,” the report stated. “The [BPD] fails to pro-

vide officers with sufficient policy guidance and training; fails to collect and analyze data regarding officer’s activities; and fails to hold officers accountable for misconduct.”

The report noted that the path for reform requires significant examination and a change within the current system. The DOJ and the City of Baltimore have entered into an “Agreement in Principle,” which identifies the reforms needed to remedy the issues found in the report.

The next step will be the negotiation of court-enforceable consent decree by the DOJ, BPD and members of the Baltimore community to implement the necessary reforms.

Senior Corey Payne, co-chair of Hopkins Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), was not

surprised by the results of the findings, citing a lack of community engagement.

“I think that anyone who was surprised about the findings in this report needs to ask themselves why they hadn’t been listening to the people who are living in these occupied communities throughout the city,” Payne wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

“The report is validation for everything that we’ve been hearing from these communities for years. I think everyone should be glad that there is validation from the federal government — but we also need to ask, why do we require validation to move forward?”

Payne also addressed the the implications of this report on the relationship between the University and the greater Baltimore community.

“We need to start addressing our own inher-

ent racism and classism,” Payne wrote. “But more than that we can start affecting real change by re-evaluating our University’s relationship with Baltimore before we try to go in and ‘save’ anyone.”

Payne suggested several measures the University could implement to improve community relations.

“That starts by pushing the administration to have fair and just hiring practices, by pushing for better benefits and unionization for the employees across the University, and by not allowing the University to engage in destructive gentrification as it does. If we begin to understand that the University, and other city ‘anchor institutions,’ have contributed to the problems the city is facing, then we can start addressing the problems.”

“We need to start addressing our own inherent racism and classism.”
—COREY PAYNE,
CO-CHAIR OF HOPKINS
STUDENTS FOR A
DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY

NEWS & FEATURES

New provost stresses community engagement

PROVOST FROM A1

move the needle, and to do this in a way that is consistent, year in, year out, so that this becomes a part of the general fabric of the University."

Kumar added that a substantial amount of feedback has been incorporated into the roadmap and that a second version will soon be released.

Another new function to aid diversity at the University is to separate the role of chief diversity officer from the Office of Institutional Equity. Kumar spoke to the reasons behind this split.

"The Office of Institutional Equity is intended to be reactive," he explained. "For instance, it will react to Title IX complaints when an unfortunate event occurs. Their role is to react in a way that is maximally supportive."

"The diversity office is not intended to be reactive alone," he continued. "It is intended to be forward-looking. For instance, thinking through ways to have a robust Visitors' Program and attract underrepresented minority faculty members to the University and have them want to stay. In other words showing people how welcoming we are."

Kumar also spoke to his past experiences working in the Chicago community and how that previous work translates to his hope for service in Baltimore.

"I come from an institution that had very similar issues," he said. "The University of Chicago is on the Southside of Chicago. It is in an economically disadvantaged community. Though there is no single answer, I think it is important for the institution to be a good citizen, a good neighbor, and do its part in making sure that its neighborhood benefits from its own success, if you will. I completely echo President Daniels' sentiment, 'As goes Baltimore, so goes Hopkins.'"

Kumar also elaborated on his own personal experience as a first-generation immigrant to the U.S., advising students to consider Baltimore a second home of sorts, not simply an academic institution.

"For us, this is your home. You've got to take care of your home. As a first generation immigrant, I feel particularly invested in my homes



COURTESY OF LEON SANTHAKUMAR

Provost Sunil Kumar is working closely with President Ronald J. Daniels to expand diversity initiatives.

in the U.S. because they have been welcoming and have given me opportunities, and the least I can do is be a good citizen," Kumar said. "While that may not mean eating crab cakes every morning, it does mean being a good citizen on many dimensions, from economic inclusion to safety of the neighborhood, among other things. Baltimore is always in our thoughts. We want every graduating senior to take a piece of Baltimore with them wherever they go. What's the point of having spent time here if you don't?"

In addition to diversity initiatives, Kumar discussed academic affairs at the University. He insisted that student concerns had been heard and that the University had ongoing commitments to improving the quality of academic life, both personally and professionally.

"One issue that has been on students' minds has been mental health and support for mental health," he said. "We are launching a survey through [Vice Provost for Student Affairs] Kevin Shollenberger's office to try and get as much information as we can across the student body so that we can enhance our support mechanisms and make them more effective."

Kumar also discussed the reconstitution of a group previously known as the Commission on Undergraduate Education. The commission will look at all aspects of undergraduate education at Hopkins and come up with recommendations to help improve the system.

Another program being launched is the Student Services Initiative, which would invest in programs like the Career Center.

Furthermore, Kumar highlighted several unique aspects of the University by comparing the institution to an outside organization or company.

"People don't fully appreciate how unique an institution like Hopkins is," he said. "If you wander through a typical company in the 'outside world,' as they say, you're not going to have so many talented people who are simply in a learning period, the way they are here. This is also an institution where individuals have their own aspirations. In companies, company heads traditionally outline the goals for the company or organization."

Elaborating on the University's unique traits, Kumar outlined his overarching vision and the role he hoped to play as University provost.

"My vision at the University is driven by these components of uniqueness — a unique collection of individuals who are learning and set their own aspirations," Kumar said. "As the provost who is also the chief academic officer of the University, I feel it is my responsibility to make sure that we facilitate this learning to the best extent possible as well as help people set their aspirations high."

Kumar recounted a short anecdote from his own time as an undergraduate student to help illustrate his underlying vision.

"When I was an undergraduate, I was an engineering major. I wanted to get a good job, and I got a good job in India with a truck manufacturing company," he said. "As soon as I showed up, I realized I hated it. And there was no add/drop period. There is no add/drop period in the real world. So, I ended up taking the Indian equivalent of the GRE exam for graduate school, not because I wanted to go to graduate school but just because I didn't want the only job that I had. Somehow, I got in. When I got to graduate school

in India, I realized how much I enjoyed what I was doing there. And I've never been outside of school since."

He explained how vital the act of aspiring towards a goal was to students, for both individual and community growth.

"By the very act of aspiring, you actually learn a lot about yourself. You have to not only know what you can do, but more importantly what you will find rewarding doing," he said. "A lot of people do things simply because they can or are told that they should. In reality, the hard part is to aspire to do things that you find both rewarding and that have a positive consequence on everybody else, whether it is on your organization, company, community."

Kumar further elaborated on the importance of collaborating to create a supportive environment.

"The whole point of a community is that it helps people achieve their aspirations collectively," Kumar said. "As a community, Hopkins empowers students to say, 'This is what I aspire to do or be. This is what I want to do.'"

In particular, Kumar provided a word of advice to first-generation American immigrants like him.

"Don't doubt yourself. If you are sure of yourself, others will pick up on it," Kumar said. "When a door is open for you, walk through it."

In his spare time, Kumar enjoys cooking. His signature dishes are Indian, and he hopes to cook more in Baltimore.

Since arriving, Kumar has enjoyed brunch at Miss Shirley's and considers their eggs Benedict with fried tomatoes his favorite dish. He also enjoys following baseball and is looking forward to seeing his first Orioles game soon.

Kumar also describes himself as an amateur astronomer. He photographed the transit of Venus along the face of the sun from his apartment in Chicago.

"It gives you an independent verification of Copernicus," he said. "There's no reason to take him on faith. You may as well verify it."

Nobel Laureate talks global climate change

by SOPHIE JOHNSON
For The News-Letter

The Whiting School of Engineering (WSE) hosted a lecture by Nobel laureate and former U.S. Secretary of Energy Steven Chu titled "Climate Change and a Low-Cost Path to Clean Energy," Tuesday afternoon in Shriver Hall. Chu's address, which was the 2016 Carolyn and Edward Wenk, Jr. Lecture in Technology and Public Policy, addressed the effects of and solutions for global climate change, as well as its future impact on society.

Julian Krolik, a professor of physics and astronomy at Hopkins, introduced Chu at the event.

"Steve has had a long and distinguished career, putting his mark on diverse fields and endeavors, from basic research in atomic physics to quantum electronics and polymer behavior in biological systems, to the highest level in the intersection between science, technology and government," Krolik said.

Chu was the 12th U.S. Secretary of Energy, a post that he held from January 2009 until April 2013. In 1997, Chu was awarded the Nobel Prize in physics for discovering methods of cooling and trapping atoms with laser light. Currently, Chu is both a professor of physics and a professor of molecular and cellular physiology at Stanford University.

In his lecture, Chu used recent data to argue for the serious risks of human-induced climate change and suggest how science and technology could provide future solutions.

"I'm here to update you on what we now know is mostly not good news," Chu said. "However, I am also going to try to show you that there is a path forward."

Chu called upon a wide range of evidence to illustrate the effects of climate change, including rising ocean temperatures, the rising temperature of the earth's overall climate, geological records of rising sea levels and records of melting Antarctic ice caps. He predicted the ways in which climate change would affect Americans in the coming years.

"The most important issue would be the temperature-rainfall patterns that will change," Chu said. "For example, the Rockies near California will have spring rains instead of spring snows. In California much of our water supply comes from the Sierras and the hydroelectric dams which store that water. If there are spring rains, the water simply goes over the dam. You can't contain it; the reservoirs are not big enough."

Chu argued that low-cost solutions to climate change are essential, because few of the world's countries could be convinced to abandon their dependence on fossil fuels without a real economic incentive.

"Here's a favorite quote of mine: 'The stone age came to an end, but not for lack of stones. And the oil age will end, but not for lack of oil,'" Chu said. "What this

means is that when you transition from something that's widely used to something new, you do so because you found something better. If you haven't found something better, you are left with stranded assets. So this transition to better solutions must include the economics intimately. Oil, gas and coal will continue to be used because no country is really willing to say, 'We're going to leave billions of dollars in the ground, just because something better may come along fifty years from today.'"

Chu suggested that these new solutions could begin with a simple step. States could mandate, for example, that all household appliances must meet a certain level of energy efficiency. Requirements for energy efficiency could then be implemented on a larger scale, branching out to include buildings, cities, transportation systems and industrial complexes.

"China is building very high voltage transmission lines, some of the highest voltage lines in the world. By far, they're the world leader," Chu said. "They can move electricity between two thousand to three hundred kilometers and lose only five percent of the energy. There's no line in the United States that even comes close. Our last HVDC line was made in 1989; We do not ship electricity across the country."

At the conclusion of his lecture, Chu suggested that hydrocarbon fuels may be an important component for future energy sustainability.

"The final challenge to get to full energy sustainability around the world is achieving liquid hydrocarbon means of storage, which means you can make cheap, clean electricity by using carbon dioxide and water to assemble hydrocarbon fuel," Chu said. "Once you have hydrocarbon fuels that store at room temperature, you can ship it all around the world. This means that all developed countries would have energy security."

Students responded positively to Chu's lecture.

Freshman Connie Xiao appreciated the specific proof that Chu provided for human-induced climate change.

"I come from a place where people don't really believe in climate change. For example, my parents don't really believe in it," Xiao said. "For me, it was interesting how he used the decline in carbon isotopes to explain how we can find that it's actually human contribution that's causing climate change. That was something I'd never heard of before, and I thought it was compelling evidence. It was fascinating to hear such a distinguished person talk about these issues."

Freshman Ariel Swett echoed Xiao's reaction.

"I'm not very educated on climate change; so gaining perspective and gathering this information, concrete information, makes it a lot more tangible," Swett said. "The evidence he provided helped me get a better perspective on climate change overall."



COURTESY OF SUNIL KUMAR

Provost Kumar brings his experience with top universities to Hopkins.

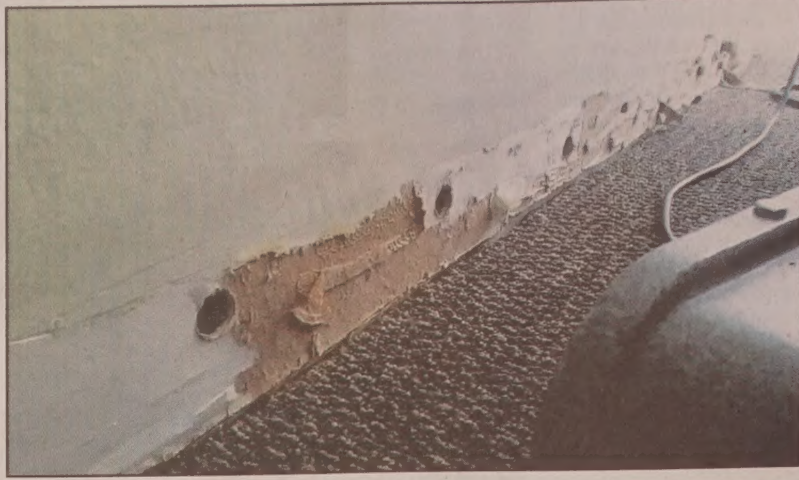
NEWS & FEATURES

Students relocated due to flooding face “inadequate” accommodations



COURTESY OF KEVIN SHEN

Students feel the Housing Office failed to communicate clearly and provide adequate living arrangements.



COURTESY OF KEVIN SHEN

Relocated residents had trouble focusing on their studies due to their temporary room changes.

FLOOD FROM A1 decorations ruined.

In the 48 hours following Sunday's flood, Tatum said that Housing did not reach out to her or her suitemates. They ended up going to the offices to speak directly with Housing staff after not being offered fans or linens.

"I was trying to be patient the first night even though the University didn't send out an email, and I wasn't allowed in my room for eight hours," Tatum said. "It was like they were trying to hide it from us and keep us from telling other people until they could control the situation. Everything that worked out for us this weekend was all because of friends and RAs who genuinely cared. The University's reaction really didn't make it look like they cared."

Like Tatum, sophomore

Kevin Shen has also been relocated due to the damage to his dorm. He and his three other roommates were moved to rooms in Bradford, Charles Commons and Homewood. His suite in Charles Commons has multiple industrial fans to dry the wet carpets.

Several holes have been drilled into the walls to release water. Shen is living in a Homewood efficiency which he described as unclean, citing cockroaches in the bathroom and kitchen as examples of the room's dirty environment. But he felt the University responded well to the incident.

"The situation was handled in a very timely and efficient manner," Shen said. "The Hopkins police officers sealed off everything, and I'm pretty sure no one got hurt. So in that regard, I felt the University did a very good job. It was very fast

and efficient. The only real problems I had were with where we got housed."

Both Shen and Tatum stated that the flooding and relocation have negatively impacted their studies.

"The AMRs don't have fans or air-conditioning, so I was unable to sleep at night," Tatum said. "I also had to run back and forth to Housing so many times because they weren't communicating with us — that was all that I did in between and after classes. I am already very far behind on my work, and it's only the first week."

Shen echoed Tatum's comments, stating that going back and forth between Commons and Homewood has been inconvenient and time-consuming.

"Now that I can't work in my room anymore and now that I essentially live

in two places, it's been a huge impact on my academics. Most of my stuff is still in Commons, so I have to go in and out a lot," Shen said.

Other students residing in the Charles Street Building were also affected by Sunday's events. Sophomore Stephanie Klaskin said that her seventh-floor suite had minimal water damage but was upset that she was kept out of her room for eight hours.

"It was a pretty big inconvenience because that was the day I was going to do my homework and get everything done. I spent the whole day locked out of my room. I think the worst part about it was that no one was communicating with us. No one told us what was going on. No one still has told us what happened," Klaskin said.

Although his suite was not damaged, sophomore

Alex Ferzola, who lives on the sixth floor of the Charles Street Building, stated he was frustrated with the University's response to the flooding.

"I wasn't very happy with how they handled it because of how long it took [to resolve] and the lack of communication,"

Ferzola said. "They didn't really update us and kept us on a limb."

According to Director of Housing and Operations Tracey Angel, all 12 students living in temporary housing will be able to move back into Charles Commons by next Tuesday.



COURTESY OF KEVIN SHEN

Students had to wait for eight hours before they were able to return.

BOOK EVENTS

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WELL-FEST 2016

"Minding Your Mental Health."

Decrease stress and stay healthy! Learn more about JHU's mental health resources at Hopkins' first annual Well-Fest!

Freshman Quad | Friday, September 9th | 11:30 AM to 2:00 PM

University
Mental Health
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to talk

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the johns hopkins

N-L

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VOICES

Hopkins is a diverse university, where an incredible mix of cultures, academic interests and personalities coexist and thrive...

The 1,000 year run-up to World War I



Rollin Hu
Irrelevant History

Most history is guessing; the rest is prejudice," wrote historian Will Durant in his book *The Lessons of History*. That's from a real, renowned full-time historian.

This is a column by an easily distracted, Wikipedia-loving college student who can't identify run-on sentences and isn't even majoring in history. So be prepared for a lot of guessing and a strong prejudice for the absurd, weird and, above all, irrelevant. Here we go.

Why did WWI happen?

If you've taken any sort of survey class in political science or history, you might have touched upon the exhaustively studied question of "Why did WWI happen?" There have been many explanations and analyses for this question. Here are a couple notable ones.

1. WWI happened because there was an unstable alliance structure in Europe.

2. WWI happened because the Habsburgs of Austria-Hungary were being pricks to the Slavs in Southeast Europe and

the Slavs got salty.

3. WWI happened because the German Chief of Staff Herman von Moltke the Younger had major masculinity problems and was overcompensating.

Well sure, all those are likely theories, but here is the definitive be-all and end-all answer to this eternal question from a self-described amateur historian.

So if you recall from 9th grade world history, Charlemagne was crowned as the first Holy Roman Emperor in 800 CE (~1100 years earlier than WWI), blah, blah, blah, popularized brie cheese from an unknown French monastery, blah, blah and unified the territories that are essentially modern day France and Germany.

Then he dies in 814 CE and his son, Louis the Pious, takes over and does some stuff, has some kids and then his wife dies, so then he remarries and has another son. In retrospect, he probably should have had a discussion with his wife about birth control. Primogeniture wasn't really a thing at the time, so that meant all of his land holdings were to be divided equally among his male children (gender equality also wasn't really a thing), and the birth of another son meant that the slices of the pie for the previous sons were getting smaller.

And when people don't get the pie they think they rightfully deserve, they throw a tantrum and go to war — three in this case. From my skimming of the Wikipedia page on Louis the Pious, the

wars were a complicated, Game-of-Thrones-esque mess of back-stabbings and sex scandals. So basically just a lot of stuff happened with people whose names I've already forgotten, but Louis dies in the end. His three remaining sons realize that they've all been foolish for fighting for so long and decide to unite and create a prosperous European state which exists to this day. Just kidding. They go to war again.

So they fight for a while, then one of them loses a major battle so they stop and make the Treaty of Verdun in 843 CE. The Treaty of Verdun divided Charlemagne's kingdom into three, with Charles the Bald receiving what is known as France, Louis the German getting East Francia (Germany) and Lothair I getting the land sandwiched in between which included the Low Countries, Alsace-Lorraine and Northern Italy. And then they all live happily ever after.

Except then Lothair, historically speaking, screwed up. He divided his already sandwiched territory between his sons and they turned out to be inept rulers so France and Germany squashed Lothair's kingdom into nonexistence. There would be no unification of France and Ger-

many until Charles the Fat (who comes up with these names?) did so very briefly several decades later.

So to sum it up there was a unified French/German state which separated into a proto-French state and a proto-German state whose borders were made by squishing Lothair's sandwich. Like squashed sandwiches, this border was messy with bits of pieces of ethnically different populations sprinkled on different sides. Were these people French? Were they German? I don't think they even knew. If this were literature, this event would be called foreshadowing. Over the following centuries in Europe, a significant portion of this territory would be fought over like seats in the Brody Reading Room during finals week.

Back to WWI. The Franco-German border was one of the bloodiest fronts of the war with a rough estimate of seven million casualties sustained by both sides. Lothair's ineptitude in the late 800s can be attributed to inconceivable catastrophe over 1000 years later.

Do all of our present policy decisions not matter since we are in some predestined storyline set in place by medieval characters with ridiculous names? I don't know, I only claim to be a crappy amateur historian. But also from that reasoning, we should also recognize that the decisions we make today may influence life another 1000 years down the line. Basically we shouldn't resign ourselves to a self-imposed (and probably wrong) constraint of historical determinism. We should also make sure that we don't make any decisions that completely screw over the future generations (cough, climate change).

Come back to read *Irrelevant History* next time, where we look at how the extent of the Black Plague in Europe eerily matches the Iron Curtain of the Cold War.

The Hip Hop section has undergone a name change. The News-Letter believes "Voices" better reflects our goal to include the different groups, visions and views within our student body. We hope "Voices" provides us with the chance to share many unique perspectives across campus.

The surprising history of tailgating



Meagan Peoples
Ignorant in America

In their yearly attempt at stopping freshmen from being tempted into wandering into the dimly lit saunas scattered about frat row, Hopkins has continued its crusade to host an absurd number of events.

It is a vain struggle to tire out the young men and women who have just been dropped into the lawless world of college. Though these events may not have the effect desired by the Hopkins administration, I am more than happy to take advantage of them.

Tempted by the free food and the weird, almost cult like obsession all college students have for a free t-shirt, I have attended more than one of these alcohol-free social opportunities. While I'm not usually one to question the way someone chooses to give me food, I've never quite understood the University's obsession with tailgates.

As someone who didn't grow up surrounded by American football culture (I did get a lot of a different kinds of football culture though), the idea of driving to a place filled with loud drunk strangers and standing inebriated around an open flame, becoming louder and drunker, seemed a bit strange to me.

Though admittedly Hopkins does it a little differently than tradition dictates, I still felt that to truly enjoy the experience of being aggressively shoved as four other people and I all dive for that last small size t-shirt, I should learn a little more about my cultural

heritage.

Thankfully, someone else had already devoted two years of their life to the study of tailgating. A University of Notre Dame anthropologist with a little too much time on his hands has deduced that this great American tradition started far before the first official football game.

In fact, what can be considered to be the first tailgate party occurred during the Battle of Bull Run, when civilians from both sides came together to cheer while picnicking. This was a far stranger and more disturbing origin than I was expecting to come across. To be fair though, they didn't have television back then, so it was a little harder to casually observe atrocities over dinner.

The other aspect of tailgating on campuses that aren't Hopkins — the sports — came into play (excuse the pun) in 1869. When spectators for the first intercollegiate game of football sat around and did the things people normally do at tailgates such as "decorating your space by putting up balloons, hanging a flag or using a particularly decorative tent" Wikihow tells me. Thus football and inebriated grilling were forever linked.

Jump forward to today, and you'll find me carrying on the tradition by awkwardly standing in line, dwarfed by the two large football players having a loud conversation over my head. As I sit on the damp grass and pretend like it isn't soaking through my pants, all the while making aggressively awkward eye contact with someone about to take a bite out of their hot dog, I think about the long history that tailgating has had, mired in war and alcohol.

I feel almost patriotic sitting there, doing my part to keep such a long standing and so very exclusively American tradition going.



PUBLIC DOMAIN
Lothair I divided his territory between his sons, a little-known possible cause of World War One.

What's the Word? This Week on Yik Yak



gradedeflation

Class is so AC'd and the weather is so hot that I'm contemplating buying pants that unzip into shorts. Kill me.

11h

21



munchsodysey

Cute guy in Fells waved to me but I was eating ice cream with my mother and thus had to pretend I felt nothing now the moment is gone 🙄

16h

2

Check back
each week to
see what the
anonymous
students of
Hopkins have
to say.



ssssssssbbbbb

Bring chocolate milk back to the ffc #makehopkinsgreatagain

4d

3 Replies

Chat

7



munchsodysey

Looking back, I was definitely sexually awakened by teenage simba

1h

Reply

Chat

1

VOICES

Here is the section where you can publish your unique thoughts, ideas and perspectives on life at Hopkins and beyond.

Shout Outs

Shout out to the Squirrel who broke into my PreO food... twice:

Hope you enjoyed it; I know I would have.

– Violent when hungry

Shout out to the proud parents with the giant Hopkins banner:

I get that you're proud of your kids bright future, but please don't ruin mine by running me over.

– Scared Biker

Shout out to the Freshman mob crowding the sidewalk:

Please stop trying to follow me to the parties.

– Everyone who isn't a freshman

Shout out to the super awesome security guard: Thanks for driving me back to campus at one in the morning.

– Nighttime is Scary

Shout out to my Boss: Thanks for not letting me know you had found my keys for a week. Hilarious.

– Temporarily Homeless

Shout out to the freshman filling tupperware with cereal at the FFC:

It's good to know kids are able to adapt to college so quickly these days.

– Proud Upperclassman

Shout out to the dude who was one half of the most awkward elevator ride ever:

I promise tripping and spilling my laundry everywhere was not a part of some elaborate plan to pick you up.

– Wishing She had Cuter Underwear

Singer St. Clair en route to musical success



Hayley Bronner
Rising Ambitions

Avicii, Mary J. Blige, Machine Gun Kelly: These are currently all household names, but there is soon to be one more that will be just as unforgettable. The connection between these artists lies within one man: Earl St. Clair.

St. Clair, living in Los Angeles, is an icon in the making. He is a singer, songwriter and producer who just released his first solo single Aug. 19. The song is called "Man on Fire" and Earl St. Clair is bound to be his own man on fire as his career skyrockets with his single and EP.

This single is not St. Clair's first move in the music business. After being born in Cleveland, Ohio and raised in Alabama, he left for college only to return home a short time later after realizing that his passion lay in music production after spending much more time using Fruity Loops

(music production software) on his friends' computers than going to class.

When he returned home, his grandfather took out a loan of \$4,000 so that St. Clair could buy his own music production equipment and get a start on finally following his dream. After gaining some skills, he began producing music for almost every rapper in his city and eventually started to make connections with the right people. Through this process, St. Clair began developing his own style and sound. He believes that music made today is too disposable since it never lasts too long because it never truly embodies the artist.

"People don't feel anything with music. They get bored. I think artists are afraid to be themselves," he said in an interview with DefJam. "Be you. People forgot how to do that."

With his own earthy, full-bodied sound, Earl St. Clair will capture his listeners just as other iconic artists have done in past decades. Since he started his career, Earl was a featured vocalist on Avicii's "Pure Grinding For a Better Day," which appeared on ESPN, MLB Network and FOX Sports. The song has over 21 million streams on Spotify. Earl's vocals were also featured on Ma-



Musician from Ohio Earl St. Clair aims to make a name for himself. COURTESY OF CB PHOTOGRAPHY

chine Gun Kelly's "Rolling Stone." To add to his already impressive repertoire, he also wrote the song "Very Best," sung by Rick Ross and featuring Mary J. Blige. There is nothing that this man can't do.

Earl St. Clair's resume is already impressive, but his career, particularly as a vocalist, is just taking off, as he makes a name for himself. With his deep and raspy voice, he weaves the sounds of old soul, blues and rock into electric accents. He pushes his boundaries in order to capture an audience that is more than ready for something new. He strives to be something different for music listeners. There will be showcases this month in New York and Los Ange-

les for St. Clair's EP, titled *Songs About A Girl I Used to Know* along with a promo tour beginning in October. As of right now, the only officially announced date for St. Clair's performance is Oct. 7 in New York at the Apollo Theater. It will be a show not to be missed.

With a sound comparable to Alabama Shakes, Gary Clark Jr. and Gnarls Barkley, there is no doubt that you will want to check out Earl St. Clair before everybody from ages one to 100 knows his name. Be sure to check him out on Twitter (@EarlSaintClair), Instagram (@EarlSaintClair) and Facebook (Earl St. Clair) to stay up to date on his music and events. You could also catch his music on Spotify.

A playlist to welcome you back to campus



Juliana Veracka
The Playlist

As you may or may not remember, I originally wrote a column called Dorm Diets for *The News-Letter*. This year, as evidenced by the title, I'm doing something a little different. Like many people, I am enamored with music. I always find myself in search of more — from old songs I've never heard to new songs that came out yesterday. I love finding playlists that other people have made and choosing which songs I will make my own. So this column is going to be just that — playlists. Since this is my first playlist of the semester, I've decided to include some songs that remind me of my freshman year at Hopkins, my sophomore year and this year (I'm a junior).

Some of these songs merely remind me of those times, others bear messages that I believe could be helpful to all new and returning students. Everyone's music taste is unique, but I hope everyone can find something on here that speaks to them. Enjoy!

1. "I Wanna Get Better" — **The Bleachers**: I'm starting this list with a song that I heard a lot at the beginning of my freshman year. It's energetic and fun to listen to although its specific message very much escapes me to this day.

The way I see it, this song is about wanting to change. Everyone comes

into college at a different place in life — maybe you're coming out of a rough patch, maybe you're heading into one — but I think one thing that unifies everyone's experiences is change.

No matter what else happens, your life is going to change in college (and after college and pretty much every day for the rest of your life). If you're not happy with where you're at now or in a couple months or even in a couple years, there's always time for you to 'get better.' Which, regardless of the original message of the song, is what I chose to take from its lyrics.

2. "When The Day Met The Night" — **Panic! At the Disco**: This song has a lot less relevance to what I was going through at the start of freshman year and a lot more to do with the fact that it always reminds me of the end of summer. Maybe that's why I chose it as my audition song when I thought I would join an acapella group. Suffice it to say that I could not do this song justice in an audition. And yet, I still enjoy it to this day. It reminds me of a time when I tried something new and daunting, failed and moved on. Plus, it's super sweet and has a gorgeous melody.

3. "Breaking Up My Bones" — **Vinyl**: Okay, so this one actually reminds me of all the different people I met during my first year at Hopkins. Not because of the lyrics but because I first heard this song in the common room of my dorm. People sometimes liked to play their music aloud.

I would listen, and I recall hearing this song multiple times. (Thank you to whoever that was, by the way.) Every time I hear it now, I think back to everyone I met freshman year. I'm still friends with some of them (some

are the best friends I've maybe ever had), but others I only see once in awhile, or I haven't seen since. But I learned important lessons from pretty much all of them, and for that I am grateful. Hopefully you've had of you will have similar experiences with the people you've met as well.

4. "Fire N Gold" — **Bea Miller**: Now I move on to sophomore year. It was a lot less daunting than freshman year. Still stressful and still confusing but more solid. Very hopeful. This song is quite empowering, with a soaring refrain and encouraging lyrics.

At the same time, it harbors a sense of uncertainty and unrest. It's about embracing what you have and using it to get where you want to go, even if you're afraid. I think most of us are still uncertain and afraid as sophomores. We all need a little push to keep us going.

5. "Stay" — **12 Stones**: Tonally very different from every other song I've mentioned before, "Stay" is more rock ballad than pop anthem. At least that's how I would describe it. What I really take from this song is a sense of loneliness. Which I was — lonely, I mean — when I first moved into my new suite in Homewood and my friends hadn't yet arrived.

Because as prepared as I felt for sophomore year, I still felt this sense of newness that had not yet faded from my college experience. Of course, that's not the only time I've been lonely in my life. But I remember listening to this song and thinking about how perfectly it corresponded with my emotions in the moment.

6. "Hurry, Hurry" — **Air Traffic Controller**: A song about rush-

ing things, about being stressed, about missing out on life for the aforementioned reasons. Huh. Sound familiar? I think a lot of us can probably relate to that. I certainly did when I heard it for the first time last year.

Sometimes I listen to it to remind myself to slow down. Or to remind myself that it's okay to feel like I'm falling behind. We all need time to live life, but many of us spend it looking forward or looking back. Instead, practice focusing on what is happening right now, even if the answer is "nothing much."

7. "Gravel to Tempo" — **Hayley Kiyoko**: Now I usher in this semester, my junior year, with Hayley Kiyoko's new single. This song has a sort of airy feel. It's light, but it speaks to the idea that it's okay to be independent.

You don't always need to fit in with a 'group,' or maybe your 'group' isn't the one you thought you'd belong to. It's about expressing yourself with confidence and being proud of who you are and your identity, whatever that may be.

8. "Proud" — **Heather Small**: Speaking of pride, this song is all about doing things that make you proud of yourself. Whether that's working out, studying, accepting yourself or getting out of bed in the morning, it's important to try to do at least one thing each day that makes you proud.

This is especially for those of you out there who are having a rough time for whatever reason at the start of this semester. Whatever you choose to do, it doesn't have to be something big. But if you can find any small way to lift your own spirits or to own who you are, do it.

the johns hopkins
NEWS-LETTER

Editorial

University inconsistent with sexual assault alerts

Senior Stuart Walters was charged with multiple accounts of sex offenses, false imprisonment, property destruction and assault after an altercation with his girlfriend on Tuesday, Aug. 2. *The News-Letter* reported on this incident on Aug. 13 after obtaining information from *The Baltimore Sun*, and the University has not released a statement or sent out a security alert about the incident.

The Editorial Board recognizes that the University has said it will not comment on an ongoing investigation or trial, but the Office of Campus Safety and Security has previously sent out security alerts or public safety advisories in similar instances.

On July 9, Campus Security sent out an alert about a fourth degree sex offense when the perpetrator had not been apprehended, and on Nov. 10, 2015, their office notified students of a sexual assault that had happened in a dorm on campus about ten days prior.

The University's Director of Media Relations Tracy Reeves said that no security alert was issued because the suspect was already in custody. However, in the instance of the on campus sexual assault mentioned above, the attacker was known by the University and was facing consequences, and an alert was still sent out with the heading "To keep you informed."

In addition, on July 24, Campus Security issued a public safety advisory following an assault on one JHMI affiliate and one non affiliate by two suspects both of whom were apprehended and arrested prior to the email being sent out.

The Editorial Board believes the University should have either notified students with a security alert or should have released a public statement of what had happened.

This situation is analogous to that of Brock Turner, a convicted rapist and former student at Stanford University. Unlike Hopkins, Stanford notified students and the greater community of the incident and how the school was taking action against Turner. The incident occurred on Jan. 18, 2015, and *The Stanford News*, an

official news source published by the University, issued a statement on Jan. 28 of the same year.

In the statement, Stanford explained that Turner was being charged by the police, and that he was ineligible to re-enroll in school. Additionally, the university conducted its own Title IX investigation separately from that of the police. Stanford also gave a reason for not issuing a security alert.

"In compliance with the Jeanne Cleary Act, no campus emergency alert was issued in the incident, because the suspect was immediately in custody and there was not an ongoing or immediate threat to the campus community," the statement read.

The Editorial Board recognizes that Hopkins was under no legal obligation to inform students of the incident, but we believe that they should have practiced greater transparency by at least releasing a statement similar to Stanford's, especially in wake of all the publicity the Brock Turner case has received.

The Editorial Board acknowledges that the University has taken certain steps to educate the student body and to prevent instances of sexual assault. We commend the University for implementing mandatory Bystander Intervention Training (BIT) for all new freshmen during orientation, as well as for all athletes.

In addition to greater transparency and more effective communication with the student body, we suggest the implementation of programs that address domestic violence. These programs could be tied in with the already mandatory BIT and would focus on preventing sexual assault and domestic violence.

We advise the University to formally address the Walters case and ask for greater transparency in this matter and others like it. We suggest that Hopkins follow the model set out by Stanford in informing the student body of these incidents.

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OPINIONS

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Spike Lee’s speech missed the point

By RENÉ J. MULLER

On May 18, Shelton Jackson “Spike” Lee addressed the 2016 Hopkins graduating class at the Royal Farms Arena and received an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters. Director of “Do the Right Thing,” Lee was recognized for his achievements as a filmmaker and for other contributions he has made to American culture.

“Wake up,” he told the room more than once, reading from a text that was often edgy and sometimes threatening. He pointed out that in a few decades, the majority race in the U.S. is projected to be African-American. He implied that if events were not satisfactory to this new majority, racial conflict would exceed what we are experiencing now. He read the lyrics from Prince’s song “Baltimore,” written shortly after the death of Freddie Gray and the riots that followed in April 2015, which include the sword-rattling refrain “If there ain’t no justice there ain’t no peace.”

A certain in-your-face hostility pervaded Lee’s text. Most of the comments posted to the Hopkins “Hub” website were negative. Attendees and online viewers noted that Lee had left the stage immediately after his talk, something that’s not usually done by commencement speakers; that he repeatedly omitted the “s” from our founder’s name, which is done more often than you would think, though not at Hopkins commencements; and that he used the F-word, formulated as the interrogatory “WTF”.

Though none of these departures from academic tradition particularly bothered me, I was taken back when Lee said: “It’s up to the classes of 2016 to make a better world for the 99 percent.”

The fact is, the best colleges and universities in the country are bending over backwards now to admit and support black students who appear to have the capacity and drive to do the

required work. Nonetheless many black students who attend these schools are having trouble academically and socially. At Hopkins last fall, demonstrators made it clear that they do not feel welcome at the Homewood Campus. They blame their isolation on the fact that there are not enough faces like their own and on “racism,” which they claim persists among students and faculty. Although *The Johns Hopkins News-Letter* covered the demonstrations and subsequent meetings of black students with university administrators in great detail, no incidents of racism were documented.

I believe that the real causes of black students’ discontent remain unacknowledged and unreported. No one wants to uncover this truth or to speak it. Academic administrators avoid going too deeply into campus racial issues for fear of losing their jobs, as happened last fall when the president of the University of Missouri was forced to resign. On college campuses, the search for truth has largely been replaced by an effort to be “politically correct” at any cost, in the hope that no one will be offended (or fired). The downside of political correctness is that what is politically correct is usually otherwise bogus.

Many black students insist that their problems originate in the predominantly white institutions they attend. Ironically, the common ground that these institutions are attempting to create for all students may be what the protesters are actually resisting and rejecting. Perhaps this is because black students are not sure enough of their own identities to join a white culture that has historically betrayed them. If this truth can’t be acknowledged in America’s academic com-

munities — where freedom of speech and the search for truth have, until recently, been valued above everything else — how will it ever be known?

My vision of America’s future is grimmer than Spike Lee’s. If we — the classes of 2016, the presidents of these colleges and universities and anyone in this country who has influence over events — continue to deny the realities of what it means for black and white Americans to learn, work and live side by side and instead clench fists and make threats, we will find ourselves in a world that no American, black or white, will be able to live in.

In the demonstrations at Homewood last fall, there was no violence or destruction of property and no faculty members lost their jobs. This outcome says a good deal about the stability of an institution that long ago set the standard for graduate study in the U.S. The question is, can Hopkins once again take the lead by authentically embracing the complex and difficult realities that underlie the problems that so many black students are experiencing now in colleges and universities where they are the minority?

The “better world” that Spike Lee asked us for in his address can happen only if those who have been historically short-changed are willing to become part of an American common culture. This would mean living in the present, while being open to the possibilities of a better future in what is gradually becoming a fairer society.

René J. Muller is a Johns Hopkins alumnus and the author of Doing Psychiatry Wrong and Psych ER.

Being true to yourself never goes out of style

By KARL JOHNSON

Dear Freshmen, College will be the perfect time to lie. Quietly tucked between your awkward upbringing and the infinite sobriety of adulthood, in the next four years it will be exciting and easy to fabricate who you are.

The majority of people you meet will not inhabit the rest of your life, and as such, these people will be ideal depositories for slightly inflated GPAs, free clouds to store overly melodramatic volunteering stories and living diaries to pitifully justify broken relationships when in reality it was all your fault. I am sure you have already participated in this. In the dozens of introductions you have already had, how many times have you silently twisted your identity? To some, you are an introverted youngest child who cannot bear the academic pressure of your older siblings, to others your confidence precedes you, a “Hopkins Med” shirt was purchased on your first trip to the med campus. This kind of duplicity is comfortable for the moment but ultimately at what cost?

I beg you. Rebel against all kind of deceitfulness. Be honest.

Be honest with your background. Are you a middle-class white guy who actually does not care about the current economic state of Baltimore? Okay, that is understandable. Most probably do not, at least not initially. If you are not alright with this, address it. Do you secretly take pride in the work ethic you have developed from your humble upbringing even though it does not pro-

vide you with the best clothing or much spending money? Great. Use that to drive your studies and career aspirations.

Be honest intellectually. You are not gifted enough to take 19 credits a semester? Fourteen works, too. And going to the Learning Den is not beneath you. You actually only just skimmed that book and have no idea what it communicated? That happens, and there will be time to catch up in the future. You really are just as smart as your friends who set the curve? Wonderful, be proud of yourself and hit the books not looking back.

Be honest socially. Do you actually hate getting drunk at every party you have been to in the last two weeks? Stop going. Tell your friends why. Have you been living a completely sheltered lifestyle and secretly long for some risk and romance? I am sure there will be a party next weekend. Do you no longer love her? There is nothing intrinsically wrong with that, but please tell her. Does your relationship with your mom actually suck? Turn off your music and admit it. Now reconcile.

Be honest religiously. If you have never missed a church service in your life but now secretly doubt whether God even exists, confess it loudly and with more confidence than anything you have ever prayed about before. If no one is actually listening, you have not said much. Or deep down do you dearly wish for there to be transcendent and embodied Love in this seemingly secular world, something by which you could rest easy at night despite all the wars around and within you? Good. Pursue it with everything in your being. It was once written that he who seeks will find. Was that author telling the truth?

Keep your promises; Do not cheat; do not throw away your empty plastic water bottle in trash. The recycling can is never that far away.

Done correctly, honesty is a scary thing. In fact, it will probably hurt your grades, land you in less prestigious internships and earn you fewer second dates. You may gradually hate the person this process reveals, or you may come to understand yourself to actually be someone worth an infinite amount of love. You may become completely cynical to the world or perhaps you will become enchanted by it. This uncertainty is expected.

College is about recognizing your ignorance and hungering to learn because of it. During the next four years you will have more information to personally digest and respond to than any other time in your life. As such, it is important now more so than ever that the instrument processing this data is at least internally consistent. At the end of the day, and for now you will simply have to trust me on this, a properly tuned instrument will produce something much richer and more lasting than just good character and an accurate understanding of oneself. It will produce a coherent person full of symmetry and liberation, with a pure heart.

Practically I do not know where this honesty will find you. But you will. That’s education.

Sincerely,

A privileged white guy finally addressing his religious uncertainties.

Karl Johnson is a junior economics and chemistry double major from Detroit.

Stop hating, Pokémon Go has brought joy to millions

By GILLIAN LELCHUK

If you haven’t heard of Pokémon Go by now, you must actually be living under a rock. Niantic’s smartphone game, which allows players to catch Pokémon by walking around in the real world, launched on July 6 and has since then gathered hoards of passionate supporters and critics.

I am one of these passionate supporters, and I’ve decided to convert my love and affection into this op-ed piece, so hopefully I can smash all the haters out there.

Let me begin with the fitness benefits of this game. This game is impossible to play in your bedroom or on the couch. You have to get up and walk around your neighborhood or campus or city, or you’re never going to catch any Pokémon. On top of that, the game gives you an alternative method of getting Pokémon: hatching them from eggs. These eggs can only be hatched by walking two, five or ten kilometers, depending on the egg. And the game knows if you’re in a car, so you really do have to walk to hatch those eggs.

This game has encouraged all the traditionally “indoor kids” (myself included) to put down the game console and turn off the TV to get outside. My skin is definitely a darker shade of white after I spent the last month or so of my summer playing Pokémon Go.

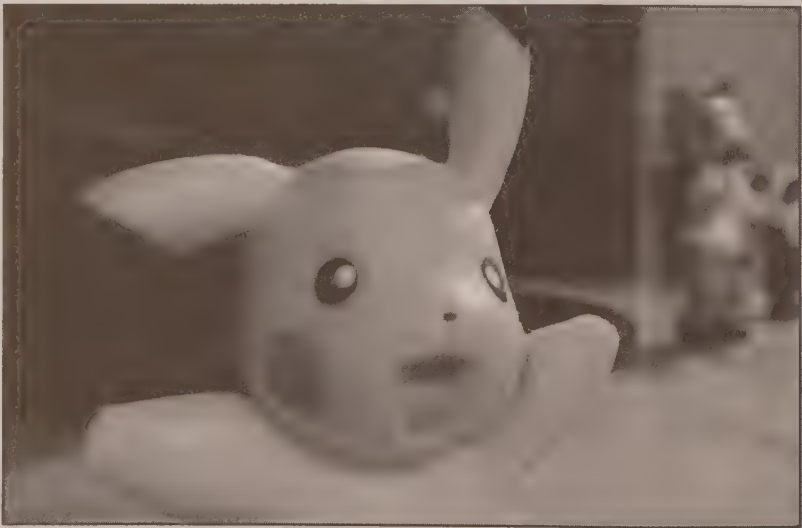
I’ve also made two whole friends playing Pokémon. I cannot tell you their names because they are children who

live in my neighborhood in California, but I can tell you that they are adorable and that we took down that Instinct gym in the middle of our suburban world.

Some people don’t like this game, and that’s okay, but those people don’t seem to have any good reasons. The biggest criticism I’ve heard against this game is that people are doing stupid things while playing, like crashing cars or trespassing or running into the middle of busy highways. Okay, those are valid complaints.

Here’s what I think: People are going to be stupid anyway. The people who drive and play are probably the same people who already drive and text. The people who are trespassing obviously never learned anything about the law or how to read signs. The ones who run out into the middle of the street when you could catch that Bulbasaur from the sidewalk are probably the same guys who yell out, “Look what I can do!” before doing something that will leave them hospitalized.

Maybe Pokémon Go is providing a scapegoat for stupid people. “Hey, it wasn’t my fault,



NANDO ARRUDA/CC BY-NC 2.0
Pokémon Go allows users to catch various pocket monsters, like this Pikachu, out in the real world.

I was playing the game.” Well, as a player of the game, I can say with absolute certainty that there is no reason to do anything that dumb, even for the sweet, sweet Pokes.

If you’ve been boycotting Pokémon Go because of all that bad press, just give in and download it. If you don’t like it, then you just can delete it. No harm done.

If you haven’t downloaded it yet because you’ve never played a Pokémon game before, that’s okay, too. It’s user friendly and doesn’t expect you to have any prior knowledge of the game. All you have to know is that there are monsters in the world that you can catch in Pokéballs and then they become your friends. It’s a fantastic concept.

If I haven’t convinced you to play Pokémon Go yet, you

should know that even my dad is playing it. He works a full time job because he is an Actual Adult, so don’t argue that you don’t have enough time for this. My dad and I have really bonded through this game, and earlier this week he sent me a screenshot of his first Jigglypuff. Yeah, my dad is cooler than yours.

Pokémon Go was honestly the sole reason I left my bedroom some days this summer, and I will defend the merits of this game to the ends of the earth. If you still don’t like it, at least appreciate that its success is the reason we’re going to get a Harry Potter version of the game.

Gillian Lelchuk is a junior Writing Seminars and mathematics double major from Los Alamitos, Calif.

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THE B SECTION

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YOUR WEEKEND • ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT • CARTOONS, ETC. • SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY • SPORTS

SEPTEMBER 8, 2016




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Uber and Volvo develop self-driving cars — B7

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Sports

Football team defeats Washington & Lee 45-29 — B10

M. Soccer ties one, wins one at Blue Jay Invitational — B11

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YOUR WEEKEND SEPTEMBER 8-11

Events in Baltimore this weekend

Baltimore folk night is uptight, out of sight

Thursday

The Kneads, Positive No and Beach Slang, The Ottobar, 7 p.m.

The Kneads, an indie swing guitar band from North Carolina, and Positive No, a noisy synthpop band from Virginia, open for Beach Slang at the Ottobar this Thursday. Beach Slang is a pop-punk, Philadelphia-based band that makes music as serious as it is fun. \$13 in advance, \$15 at the door.

Friday

Charm City Junction, Germano's, 6 p.m.

Charm City Junction is a local acoustic roots music band whose live performance shouldn't be missed! With Patrick McAvinue on the fiddle and mandolin, Alex Lacquement on the bass, Brad Kolodner on the banjo and Sean McComiskey on the accordion, this band is full of top-notch musicians. \$20.

Saturday

All Genders Clothing Swap, Baltimore Free Farm, 5 p.m. — 9 p.m.

The Baltimore Free Farm is hosting a clothing swap this Saturday! You do not need to bring clothing to attend. All you need is a respectful attitude towards others. Donations appreciated but not required.

All Access Screening of *Obvious Child*, Ynot Lot, 7 p.m. — 10 p.m.

Planned Parenthood, the Women's Law Center and the All Access Coalition have joined to bring you one of the last summer movies of the year! Reproductive rights organizations will be present at tables. Free food if you visit three tables! There will be happy hour specials as well. Free.

Sunday

Grant Earl Lavalley, Dang Olsen Dream Tape, Gusher, Pony Payroll Bones and Quna, the Crown, 9 p.m.

This eclectic mix features musically diverse bands such as Grant Lavalley, who is a singer/songwriter; Dang Olsen Dream Tape, which is more along the lines of computer music or synthpop; Pony Payroll Bones, who plays raw guitar and string music; and Quna, who plays experimental computer music and various other instruments, including voice. \$5.



TRUERSOUND/CC-BY-SA-3.0

Pictured on the right is host and organizer Anna Roberts-Gevalt, who put on the first folk show in June.

By VERONICA REARDON
Your Weekend Editor

The Blue Room at the Crown is not a quiet place. I've been to dances there, which are supposed to be loud, and I've been to readings there, which are not supposed to be as loud. There is always at the least a dull roar of conversation happening at the back. Such is the nature of the Crown.

Last Friday though, to me, it fell quiet. When Michael Smith was singing, when Luke Chohany was yelling, when the Nonstop Begonias were beautifully harmonizing, and when the Brother Brothers played together, cello and fiddle, I could not hear the background noise.

This past folk night was the second that has happened at the Crown. The first one, which I was not able to attend, was back in June. It is organized by Anna Roberts-Gevalt, a local old time musician, who also acts as the MC.

Folk Night No. 2 was made up of two halves. The first was an array of wonderful local musi-

cians. It featured Dave Huber, Michael Patterson Flannagan Smith, Luke Chohany, the Nonstop Begonias and Elizabeth Downing with Nathan Bell. The second half was a set by The Brother Brothers, a band from New York made up of two (you guessed it) brothers. While their name sounds a little like it came from the writers of *Rick and Morty* (Can't you hear the intergalactic cable episode now?), they sound nothing like a band from *Rick and Morty*. They are twins and sang us lovely twin harmonies.

I arrived after the start, partway through what I believe was Dave Huber's set. I missed most of that because I was busy getting settled. There may have been people before him, but they weren't listed on the event yet, so if they performed, sadly, their names will not be in this article. After that came Mike (Michael Patrick Flannagan Smith), whose girlfriend was sitting in front of me. I know this because she leaned back and said, "That's my boyfriend!" to me when he came up on stage. He had a very

pleasant voice and sang a couple of very nice songs I believe he wrote. Luke Chohany followed Mike, with a lot of excellent yelling and hullabaloo, then an original song that was quite lovely.

After all the one-man acts came two duos. The first was the Nonstop Begonias, a band very near and dear to my heart. They sang a lovely version of *Pretty Polly* and had a chilling arrangement of the song "Don't Let Me Die on the Lone Prairie." The last of the local groups was Elizabeth Downing and Nathan Bell. Elizabeth played her banjo with a bow, and Nathan played the banjo more conventionally. Their sound was closer to what I've seen at the Crown before — pretty experimental, a little strange at parts. It was a great addition to the show in that it was different than everything else, and Elizabeth has a fantastic voice.

Before taking a break, Anna RG had us all sing together. That might have been the definitive moment of the night for me. The feeling of that moment

and the one earlier when Mike's girlfriend was so proud of him is so much of why I love folk and old time. Not only do you go and listen to amazing musicians, they want to sing with you and play with you. It is a participatory tradition and it is lovely.

The song Anna had us sing was "I Don't Want to Die in the Storm," which is a traditional folk song that sounds much like a spiritual. It could have started as one, for all I know. It sounded amazing with everyone in the Blue Room singing it, in various keys and tunefulness.

Another intimate part of the show was the seating arrangement. Many people were sitting on the floor in the front, cross-legged and leaning back on their hands. I sat beside both friends and strangers on the floor.

The Brother Brothers played last, and they were incredible. One played fiddle. The other switched between guitar and cello. You don't often hear violin and cello together accompanying voices in folk and old time music. You should though. As a string player myself, I'm biased toward strings, but even with that in mind they were really something else.

All in all, it was a great night. I would highly recommend going if there is a Folk Night No. 3, which would not surprise me. Keep an eye out on the Crown's website!

There are a variety of ways to reach the Crown. You can take the JHMI to Penn Station and then walk about a block, you can take the Circulator and then walk, you can bike, you can walk if you're all right with walking for 20-30 minutes or, if worst comes to worst, you can take an Uber or a cab, which will probably run you about \$5.

Charmed by Charm City: exploring Baltimore

By HANNAH MELTON
For The News-Letter

I love weekends in Baltimore. I wake up full of excitement for a day chock full of "activities," as I like to call them. Yes, I am an adult. When I wake up on Monday my wallet is a bit lighter and my Venmo account is way further in the red, but it's always worth a few days of off-campus fun. Last weekend was a special one, as my boyfriend was visiting from out of town. Next time you have a friend coming to stay or a relative to entertain, check out these Baltimore must-dos.

Friday night, find something new to do. A favorite of mine is usually dancing at Mobtown Ballroom: \$20 gets you and a friend in for an hour-long lesson and then an evening full of dancing. Learn a little bit about Lindy Hop swing style and then have a blast trying to keep up with the band for the night. The older couples there are always incredibly graceful and fun to watch. If an older attendee asks you to dance, always say yes.



QUIRBINU/CC-BY-SA-4.0

Mobtown Ballroom in Pigtown hosts many events, including circus classes, swing and salsa dancing.

You will look like a master without having to do anything.

Saturday night options are endless. If you really want to splurge, Fogo de Chao in the Inner Harbor is a dining experience to impress. As a pescetarian, it's not my eatery of choice, but for my meat-eating boyfriend it was paradise. He enjoyed a dozen different meats made in the Brazilian style, all paraded around the dining room for you to taste at your delight. If you don't want meat, the salad bar is actually incredibly delicious and full of filling, nutritious options. The marinated mushrooms

and asparagus-parmesan soup were especially awesome. (They also had smoked salmon!) Save Fogo de Chao for when family comes on a special occasion. Dinner for two will leave you at least \$100 in the hole, worth it if you want to treat someone special. Save a little by taking the Charm City Circulator's Purple Line all the way down to the Harbor.

On Sunday mornings, join the hordes of Baltimoreans doing it right by indulging in brunch. (Boozy, if you're over 21.) Again, take a free ride on the Purple Line. This time get off in Mount Vernon and head to City

Cafe, just a few blocks off St. Paul. With beautiful seating inside or out, you'll find a range of classic brunch dishes that come sized to fit tighter budgets and big spenders alike. If you're 21, the 16 ounce mimosas are a steal at \$8, and the orange juice is freshly squeezed. Any of the poached egg dishes are sure to impress, and the waitstaff refills your coffee with generous frequency. As a bonus, they bring you complimentary cinnamon rolls while you wait for your food to arrive. Be sure to make a reservation before you head out; It's a popular spot!

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Our Election Year Playlist

1. “Reagan Youth” by Reagan Youth
2. “I Might Vote 4 Donald Trump” by JPEGMAFIA & Tricky
3. “California Uber Alles” by Dead Kennedys
4. “How Much A Dollar Cost” by Kendrick Lamar
5. “Monstro” by Downtown Boys
6. “Right Wing” by Priests
7. “This Land is Your Land” by Woody Guthrie

Follow @jhuarts on Spotify for more playlists!

Moonrise Festival packs thrills into two days



BRANDON WILLIAMS/CC-BY-NC-ND-2.0

The Chainsmokers headlined their third event in Maryland following Spring Fair and InfieldFest.

By DUBRAY KINNEY
Arts & Entertainment Editor

The third annual Moonrise Festival returned to Pimlico Race Course for two days (Aug. 6 and 7). The festival’s focus on electronic dance music (EDM) with the occasional rap act proved successful, with the Race Course being packed for both days. The headliners for this year’s festival were Bassnectar, Tiesto, Zedd and The Chainsmokers (who played at last year’s Spring Fair).

The galactic-themed Moonrise Festival had four different stages: Stellar, Lunar, Celestial and Solar. Each stage had a different type of EDM associated with it, with the Solar stage being more trap-focused, the wonky-infused Celestial stage (featuring Louis Futon), the Stellar stage and its house-focused acts and the Lunar stage which served as the main space, with the biggest draws across multiple genres appearing there.

Day one of the festival culminated with a strong double-header in the overlapping sets of The Chainsmokers and Bassnectar which ultimately proved to be a smart idea. The audience at the Bassnectar show seemed to be older, with people in the mid-20s onwards choosing to see the much-acclaimed headliner. On the other hand, there was a younger crowd that piled in to see The Chainsmokers, with the majority of the fans being college-aged.

Either way, both sets were decidedly great, with cheers and hollers emanating across the campgrounds. The Bassnectar performance was, as advertised, heavy on the bass with an atmospheric feel, including multiple uses of complete silence that were effective.

The Chainsmokers on the other hand featured a non-stop party with songs that you could hear at any mall or frat party across America. They played through their hits, includ-

ing “Closer” and “Roses.”

There were multiple acts preceding the headliners to take note of, including well-known California rapper Tyler, the Creator. As one of the only rappers billed on the festival’s set list, Tyler had high expectations coming into his show, especially considering the fact that the tone of some of his songs are out of place for a high-energy EDM festival. Tyler still managed to make his slower, downtrodden songs work, while also bringing up the energy with multiple songs that got the crowd jumping (including his set-closer, “Tamale” from 2013’s *Wolf*).

The most striking thing about Tyler’s performance was his stage presence and his ability to weave playful banter into his songs, which in turn made his 45-minute set feel brisk and fresh.

Prior to that performance, Bear Grillz performed with rapper Famous Dex at the Solar Stage. Dex brought an infectious energy to the stage with his performance as he climbed above the DJ stand shirt-

less, with his red braids ripping back and forth in the air as he vigorously shook his head (and at one point even put his face directly onto a booming speaker).

Day two of Moonrise finished with the overlapping performances by Zedd, Claude VonStroke, LNY TNZ and Excision, once again splitting the audiences in an interesting way. LNY TNZ and Excision both garnered similar audiences, college-age people with a more aggressive sensibility to EDM music (with mosh pits dominating the venue).

Zedd, known for his relationship with Selena Gomez and Chainsmokers-esque Top 40 house music, called together a similar, but larger crowd to the aforementioned Chainsmokers.

Finally, Claude VonStroke’s more traditional house music seemed to be where the older members of the audience ended up, with younger crowd members ending up there as well. Altogether, Zedd and VonStroke both commanded the more diverse crowds of the night.

Over at the Solar stage, Caspa and Rusko (billed as Caspa vs. Rusko) brought a full-on dub-step attack to the stage. Both artists were placed perfectly, both in terms of their spot on the bill, as well as their stage. The duo’s insane beats and kinetic tones fit perfectly in the sweaty, throbbing atmosphere that was the Solar stage.

As the Pimlico slowed to a complete halt for the first time in two days, there were already talks about Moonrise 2017. One thing that was for certain, however, was that Moonrise 2016 proved to be one of the best festivals of the year in the D.C./Maryland/Virginia area.

Travis Scott defines social trap with new album

By EKLAVYAMEHTANI
For The News-Letter

For his sophomore album, *Birds in the Trap Sing McKnight*, Travis Scott really tries to forge his unique identity as an artist by trying to invent a new genre of music and make it all his own.

Travis pays homage to his mentor Kid Cudi by channeling the mindset of his album’s *Man on the Moon* and making *Birds in the Trap Sing McKnight* (or BITTSM), a social trap album, which is a niche genre spearheaded by Travis himself. This genre is all about “...what you want to do and how you want to express yourself.”

Travis really tries to push this album along that vein by making every song his, and by telling his story through his beats and vocals. At 14 songs, 53 minutes and 38 seconds of runtime, this album fails to establish a social connection due to its shortcomings in storytelling but it offers us a true glimpse into his life, and most importantly, his mind.

Its always a very difficult and subjective task to rate and talk about an album. BITTSM amplifies this problem, as I choose to believe Travis when he claims that this is the first album in the genre of “social trap.” To clarify, social trap keeps

the instrumentals associated with trap: with its 808 kick drums, double time, hi-hats, strings, and the layered synthesizers but instead of everything being predominately barren with just the beats and lyrics front-and-center, it layers the basic beats with other beats that allow for a deeper flow with more complex under- and overtones.

So this album, if taken as a sample of what kind of music social trap will use as its inspiration, breaks down into three categories of music. There is first off the music you would bump in parties, it’s loud, it’s obnoxious and it absolutely gets you going.

The second broad category would be the type of music you play when chilling with your friends: It’s more relaxed, it’s flow is much smoother and it calmly plays in the background. The third type of music is love songs, the same cheesy stuff we all like. Half of the songs in the album consists of music that you would play when you’re trying to keep it low key and hang out with your friends. The next big chunk of the album consists of music that could be considered love songs and the remainder is music that could be bumped in frat row basements.

Is this album something amazing, worthy of deeper study and analysis? Probably not, but even at a surface level, this album offers us new insight into how Travis grew up, what his life was like and what he holds important.

If there is some small part of your body not infected with cynicism, believe Travis Scott for a second. Believe that he is forging a new genre, believe this album is just a glimpse of what this genre of music has to offer, and if nothing else, this album will keep your ears preoccupied for hopefully a couple of weeks until the hype surrounding the album dies, and something new comes out.

Gospel sounds influence Chance’s new mixtape

By AMANDA AUBLE
Editor-in-Chief

Chance the Rapper refuses to stay inside the lines of conventional rap music in his latest release, *Coloring Book*. The Chicago rapper’s third mixtape that dropped May 12 guides listeners through both a playful and spiritual journey. Are you ready, Big Fella?

Opening with a brass section tune-up, the first track, “All We Got,” pairs Chance with fellow Chicago rapper Kanye West and definitively sets the tone for the rest of the mixtape.

“This ain’t no intro, this the entrée,” Chance raps.

First, this track introduces the mixtape’s overall gospel-influenced sound, including powerful harmonies from the Chicago Children’s choir as well as layered instrumental sections. Throughout the rest of the mixtape, Chance also takes on Christian themes through his innovative, modern hip-hop. He contemplates

marriage and anticipates salvation, but also wants to give Satan with a “swirl.”

This spiritual, soulful style bleeds into other songs on the mixtape like the first version of “Blessings” and is exemplified in the inclusion of an extended a capella choir solo that begins “How Great.”

Furthermore, West’s appearance on the introductory track is only the first small peak at the many artist features to follow on *Coloring Book*, including 2 Chainz, Lil Wayne, Young Thug, T-Pain, Future and even Justin Bieber.

Despite these mainstream names, Chance, who was born Chance-Lor Bennett, remains an independent artist. Even after the popular success of his 2013 mixtape *Acid Rap*, the rapper has still declined to sign to any major record label. Based on music streams alone, *Coloring Book* debuted at number eight on the Billboard 200.

SEE CHANCE, PAGE B4



RZOM/CC-BY-SA-2.0

Travis Scott follows up his hit album, *Rodeo*, with his sophomore effort *Birds in the Trap Sing McKnight*.

The Return of Bruno parodies music history



Dubray Kinney
Mia Capobianco
Bruce Willis Us

There's just something about Bruce Willis. Maybe it's the likeable tough-guy roles he plays. Maybe it's how terribly awkward he comes across in interviews. More likely it's the fact that he's the universal dad. Regardless, everyone's essentially forced to like the guy. He's an icon of American cinema and kind of a weirdo, which is why the Arts & Entertainment editors decided to start a column about him — or rather, about his films.

We will be attempting to watch his entire filmography (about 82 credited roles, according to Wikipedia) over the course of the year, updating readers when it feels appropriate. So, to kick things off, we watched *The Return of Bruno* (1987), a made-for-TV mockumentary about "legendary" musician Bruno Radolini (Willis), who has been unjustly left out of music history. The film aims to tell his forgotten story through a series of interviews with key figures from the music industry as well as clips of Bruno's performances.

An impressive array of musicians were recruited for the film: Elton John and Ringo Starr make appearances, and Bruno performs with the Temptations at one point. But before we get into all of that, we should give the film some context. Because its context is really, remarkably weird.

Willis recorded two R&B albums in the 80s, both of which were released by Motown. The first is titled *The Return of Bruno*. Although it doesn't seem like the music industry took the album very seriously, it did yield some chart-topping hits in both the U.S. and the U.K. The record served as the soundtrack for the film, which aired shortly after the album's release. Almost all of the tracks are covers, although there is one gem titled "Jackpot (Bruno's Bop)", which Willis co-wrote.

The setup of the hour-long film is essentially as follows: Various musical icons are interviewed, singing Bruno's praises and detailing exactly how Bruno influenced their musical careers. There are intermittent clips of Bruno performing, and the last 20 minutes or so is a full-on Bruno medley, with Willis singing, dancing, and playing the harmonica in outlandish dress.



"Bruce Willis Us" is a semi-weekly column in which the Arts editors review a film in Bruce Willis' career.

Seeing Grace Slick (Jefferson Airplane) pay her respects to Bruno as Bruce Willis staggers across a mock Woodstock stage is surreal, yet everything that you would expect from a mockumentary like this.

A shining moment that showcases the film's comedy comes from an interview with Phil Collins, legendary soloist and drummer for Genesis. During Bruno's phase of "purported" heavy drug use in the 60s, Collins recalls seeing him take more acid "than anyone's ever taken."

Shortly after this interview, a follow-up with Bruno's former manager airs in which he states that Bruno never took acid, going so far as to say he would fire anyone suspected of using drugs. The manager does mention that Bruno had a taste for sugar cubes during this period and guesses that Collins mistook the sugar cubes for acid.

Bruce Willis' performance as Bruno comes across as everything it should be. With the future *Die Hard* star emulating both Springssteen and David Byrne (of Talking Heads fame) simultaneously, there's a zany, campy quality to seeing Bruce Willis pretend he's been behind every musical movement of rock's heyday from the 1950s on.

Whether the film is taking you through Bruno's days as a mop-head lead singer on *American Bandstand* in the 50s, or emulating the Boss in the 80s, it proves fun.

Throughout the film Bruno hijacks credit for diverse feats, as if there weren't enough cultural appropriation in the music industry and rewriting of history to favor white dudes as it is. Of course, the whole thing is a big joke, and the film doesn't try in the slightest to take itself seriously, but we couldn't help but wonder whether back in the day some channel surfers landed on the film and took it at face value.

One might even take the satirical, hyperbolic nature of Bruno and ex-

tend it into a more purposeful interpretation — that the film provides commentary on the way we construct histories. Still, we suggest that viewers kick back with this one; It's a good post-excruciating-seminar film. There's no need to think through much of anything.

If you, for whatever reason, feel compelled to watch *The Return of*

Bruno, it's available in its entirety on YouTube.

Next up on the Willis docket is *Blind Date* (1987), a romantic comedy about (you guessed it) a blind date and its explosive aftermath. Make sure you stay tuned to the Arts & Entertainment section in the upcoming weeks for the latest Bruce Willis columns. You never know what Bruce will have in store next.

Don't Think Twice finds the drama in improv

By ANNE HOLLMULLER
Staff Writer

Don't Think Twice is a bittersweet film about the breakup of an improvisational comedy group, as well as a smart and earnest look into the lives of funny people. A serious comedy infused with heart and honesty, the film is a tribute to improv, as written and directed by Mike Birbiglia. The film offers an honest reflection on the uncertainty, frustration and ambition of striving to make a life in a creative field.

The troupe is called The Commune and includes seven members played by skilled comedic actors Keegan-Michael Key, Gillian Jacobs, Chris Gethard, Kate Micucci, Tami Sagher and Birbiglia himself. The film spends its time with these performers both onstage and off, watching them and watching them engage the audience at a seedy theater in lower Manhattan. Onstage, the group works together to achieve comedic miracles, but in the real world, most of the performers are working service jobs, trying to get by.

Each of the members is encountering resistance to this way of life, whether via parental nagging, crushing reality or cold capitalism. As an unwelcome reminder of the tenuous nature of their lifestyle, the club where the group performs is fighting a losing battle against New York gentrification (oddly enough, having been purchased by the Trump Corporation, presumably in between bankruptcies.) They are given a final month of performance unless they can find a new space.

These brilliant, querulous, neurotic individuals flirt, fight and support each other, and each long for the

success that seems increasingly likely never to arrive.

In the midst of this tense and terrifically funny struggle, an opportunity suddenly presents itself. Two of the stars of *Weekend Live*, a *Saturday Night Live* stand-in, appear at one of the group's performances, presumably to scout for new recruits to the show. We have already seen the members of The Commune watching *Weekend Live* together, mocking the staid humor and ludicrous musical guests while each secretly longing to be a part of the program. Each of the characters seeks the kind of security and success that the job could offer, though they all know that it is not a particularly innovative or important program.

While onstage that fateful night, one performer, Jack, (Keegan-Michael Key) utilizes his best skill, an impression of Barack Obama, and gains the ire of his fellow members and the attention of *Weekend Live*. Jack and the group's onstage leader Sam, who is also his girlfriend, (Gillian Jacobs) are asked to audition, while the group worries over and sup-

ports one member, Bill (Chris Gethard), whose father has been in a near-fatal motorcycle accident. Jack, however, soon becomes a first-year writer with *Weekend Live*, and becomes relatively well-known for his signature character, an old-timey movie theater ticket-taker. His friends and fellow members of the Commune, seeing his success, each begin to

search for the anchors in their lives, with uncertain results.

The ensemble features winning performances

all around, with Birbiglia's script offering brief, honest, painful sketches that bring each of these characters to life. Key is marvelously skillful here as Jack, who wins the job at *Weekend Live* and desperately tries to keep from losing everything else, devoting himself to illuminating the flaws in his ambitious, grasping performer. Ja-

for balance. "Mixtape" appears as the mixtape's darkest track, expressing the frustration existing as an independent artist. The background sound almost mimics flames, as Chance experiences the depths of doubt.

"Am I the only n**ga who cares about mixtapes?" he raps.

Also slowing down the pace with a melancholy piano accompaniment, "Same Drugs" takes on a juvenile, nostalgic tone. Chance alludes to childhood images like Neverland, as his harmonies and rounds create a feeling of longing for simpler times.

Breaking the six-minute mark, "Finish Line / Drown" could potentially exist as two songs. However, the union of the two sounds does manage to feel complimentary, moving from upbeat excitement to mellow contentment.

With this third mixtape release, Chance the Rapper proves that he not only plays on the same level as label-backed artists, but his signature brand of soulful hip-hop now sets the standard to which they should aspire.

"The film offers an honest reflection on the uncertainty, frustration and ambition of striving to make a life in a creative field"



Comedian Mike Birbiglia wrote and directed this comedy film tracking the struggles of an improv group.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Netflix changes formula with Narcos season two

By WILL KIRSCH
Staff Writer

Perhaps a quick preface: drugs aren't cool—mostly— and it would be difficult to argue that cocaine, the esteemed schedule I narcotic, has offered anything positive to the human race. However, its nefarious trade makes for great cinematic context, as the creators of the Netflix original series *Narcos* have shown their many avid viewers. The show's first season was met with largely positive reviews and drew a following amongst Netflix users. Riding that wave of success, creators Chris Brancato, Carlo Bernard and Doug Miro released the second season of the show Sept. 2.

The show's second season presented the writer's with a dilemma; Pablo Escobar's fate is historical fact and one that is hardly uncommon knowledge. So, how does one create a suspenseful drama out of a story with a fixed and unchangeable ending? *Narcos* has answered that question with its newest season. While the first season, released in August 2015, focused on the rise of Escobar from smuggler to multi-national drug lord, the second turns its attention to his downfall. Appropriately, the stories of DEA agents Steve Murphy, played by Boyd Holbrook, and Javier Peña, played by Pedro Pascal—along with their law enforcement allies—take center stage.

The viewer follows Murphy and Peña as the search for Escobar escalates into a ruthless hunt. As the two men take center stage, their characters are permitted far more growth. Each faces their own ethical dilemmas, as crime fighting becomes more and more criminal.

Murphy's personal obsession with Escobar breaks down some moral walls while creating a divide in his family life. Peña seeks to expand his hunt beyond the bounds of the law, foolishly making a deal with one of the many devils. Confronted with these new conflicts, Holbrook and Pascal both shine, transforming their characters from somewhat cut-and-dry good guys to troubled and sympathetic heroes with a shade of anti.

Escobar, portrayed by Brazilian actor Wagner Moura, is pushed to the side somewhat in favor of the other characters around him. This makes sense; all of season one was spent creating the charac-

ter of Pablo Escobar and by now, viewers are familiar. Plus, you can only go so far into the personality of a ruthless drug dealer until you hit rock bottom.

Moura's performance is as strong as ever and he still seizes most of the screen-time, but one sees a change in Paulina Gaitán's portrayal of Pablo's wife, Tata. In the first season, Tata wasn't much more than a willingly naive romantic companion, but now that Pablo's fortunes have soured and her family is at risk, she comes into her own as a forceful guardian.

New players, both cop and robber, join the game in the second season. Most notable are the pair of shadowy brothers at the head of the Cali Cartel, which is in competition with Escobar's quickly collapsing Medellín cartel. Alongside Cali stands drug empress Judy Moncada and hard-line right-wing guerrillas the Castaño brothers. All these criminal newcomers are roughly as sympathy-worthy as cancerous cells, but they make for good adversaries.

Visually, the show improves from the first season. There are more chases, tense moments in confined spaces and scenes that radiate thinly disguised fear. The actors too have changed their appearances to reflect their entrance into the final act. Pablo gets fatter and fatter as the season progresses; Murphy and Peña are more haggard; Tata's mannerisms grow all the more anxious and fearful.

Despite the deft writing, there are certain times where the season feels a little drawn out, but it would be hard to fault any creative mind behind the show for that. To compress Pablo Escobar's entire rise and fall into one short season of television show would be idiotic. However, creating an entertaining story with a predetermined ending is challenging. It seems, though, that those behind the scenes of *Narcos* have been successful. They have offered some of the tertiary characters more growth, introduced new protagonists and antagonists and changed the tone from the exhilarating optimism that marked Escobar's rise to the Shakespearian tragedy that is his downfall. Just like any Shakespearian tragedy, the new season is fraught with treachery, brutal violence, sex and hubris. And, naturally, face-numbing amounts of cocaine.



CAGE SKIDMORE/CC-BY-2.0
Pedro Pascal (*Game of Thrones*) stars in *Narcos*, as Javier Pena.

Students complete summer art internships

By MIA CAPOBIANCO
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Finding a summer internship isn't easy, especially for those students majoring in things like creative writing and philosophy. But it is possible to find an internship within the arts, and a good internship at that. *The News-Letter* reached out to two upperclassmen who were able to make it happen.

Jesse Shuman
Class of 2017, Writing Seminars

Where did you work this summer and what was your role?

I worked at PEN America, an organization that works to advance literature and defend free expression. I was an editorial intern for their new journal for literary translation, *Glossolalia*. I helped edit, publish and distribute the second issue, "Women Writing Brazil," which features an all-female cast of Brazilian writers writing in Portuguese. It dealt with topical issues such as ethnocide in the Amazon, political corruption and a rising feminist movement.

What was the work environment like?

The work environment is a mix of casual and fast-paced. There are always many simultaneous projects going on, and it can be hectic. I really enjoyed being around smart, well-read and experienced people, and being entrusted to complete crucial tasks.

What was a project you worked on and are proud of?

I taught myself how to make their website!

Did your experience influence your post-college goals?

Yes, despite being given pragmatic, often harsh insights into the publishing industry and writing careers, I decided that I definitely want to work with literature, writing and books.

What advice do you have for Hopkins students looking for interesting internships?

It's so important to keep track of application windows and start early. Cast a wide net and follow up. Don't be afraid to send cold emails inquiring about positions, or about seeming earnest. Do your research so you're prepared for any question they might ask you. Have ideas and opinions that are honest and insightful.



COURTESY OF ASLAN CHALOM
Jesse Shuman (back row, center) poses with his fellow staff members

Allison Schingel
Class of 2017, Writing Seminars and History

Where did you work this summer and what was your role?

I worked at Art with a Heart (AWAH) through the Center for Social Concern's Community Impact Internships Program. I worked as a teaching assistant for the summer job program, which meant that I helped the workers in the program (15- to 25-year-olds seeking job experience and workforce opportunities) complete specific art projects. I also helped design sample products to be used as examples for the workers and created some products to be sold in AWAH's store.

What was the work environment like?

It was a very busy workspace. Because we were hosting the job program workers in the AWAH store (HeARTwares, in Hampden), the space was often crowded. I think that, in the best moments, there was a sense of camaraderie between all the workers. We all quickly became attached to and proud of the products we were creating. It was just a really creative environment.

What was a project you worked on and are proud of?

I think I was most proud of my contributions to the day-to-day lessons. I was in a teaching role; support and guidance was my main project. It was a lot of fun to interact with the different workers, and I think I helped them to see the process of making art as something that can be rejuvenating.

Did your experience influence your post-college goals?

My internship really stressed the importance of the community. I left the summer feeling really connected to Baltimore and wanting to continue the connections I've made in this city. I am also more motivated to explore how the arts can be used to empower members of the community.

What advice do you have for Hopkins students looking for interesting internships?

I found my internship through the Center for Social Concern, and I know that there are other opportunities offered through various Hopkins organizations. I'd recommend looking around departments or programs or groups that you love and see what comes up.



PHIL GOLD/CC-BY-SA-2.0
Baltimore has many internship opportunities for students of all ages.

Pros to a Summer Internship?

Find Out What You Like!

For students unsure of what careers they want to pursue, an internship is a great way to find out what you might enjoy in life. It's also a good idea for those who think they're set on an occupation to find out if they really like that field.

Great Resume Builder!

Internships are a great boon to anyone who's trying to build up a resume, whether that be for grad school, medical school or for those entering the workforce after Hopkins, internships look good!

Cons to a Summer Internship?

Less Time to Yourself

Internships can be time-sinks, and for some people the summer is necessary as a time to reload before the ventures of the fall. Internships aren't for everyone.

The Internship Might Not Be For You

Just because it seems like something you would like, doesn't mean that an internship within your field of study has to be your cup of tea. There's always a chance that it could be a bad experience.

The Labor May Not Be Equal to the Reward

There's been recent controversy with some people within the internship field stating that internships are unpaid labor with less than stellar returns.



COURTESY OF ALISON SCHINGEL
Allison Schingel (senior) worked for Art with a Heart this summer.

On Campus Resources for Internships

1. Check out your major's office and the bulletin boards around the area.
2. Talk to clubs and professional groups, for example the National Society of Black Engineers, to see what resources they might have.
3. Ask professors if they need any research help. If they don't, they might put you in contact with someone who does.
4. Talk to upperclassmen and see if they can put you in contact with someone for which they used to intern. Their recommendation and willingness to reach out could mean a lot.
5. Go to the Career Resource Center.
6. Tap into your personal network, like recent graduates and other alumni you know personally.
7. Use your laptop. There are tons of resources online. You might need to paw through pages upon pages of search results, but it could yield you something good.

CARTOONS, ETC.

Grave Humor

By Stephanie Herrera



NATTY BOO SIX PACK

GrΣΣk LΣTTΣRS

By Erica Schwarz

Greek Letters	
What they are	What I call them
α (alpha)	fancy "A"
β (beta)	fancy "B"
λ (lambda)	wavelength
ψ (psi)	trident
ρ (rho)	literally just the letter "p"
σ (sigma)	curly "O"
Σ (sigma)	pointy "E" (yet it is somehow also sigma?) ↖ what is up with that?

Students wanted for cartoons!

The News-Letter is looking for students to contribute to the cartoons section! You don't have to be an artist to have your work shown! Cartoons, puzzles, weekly comic strips or even simple sketches and drawings: We can publish them all right here.

If you have any questions or have work to submit, please email

cartoons@jhunewsletter.com.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Hopkins researchers test Zika therapies

Scientists create edible food packaging

By ADARSHA MALLA
Senior Staff Writer

Although the first case of Zika was recorded in 1947, the virus only developed public and scientific interest many years later in 2015 when a pandemic outbreak began in South America. The outbreak spread to multiple regions worldwide. The disease is primarily spread through travelers who have been bitten by mosquitoes contaminated by the virus and sexual contact between infected and uninfected people.

A total of 2,260 reported cases of Zika have been documented in the continental United States. In Puerto Rico, a total of 7,855 locally transmitted cases have been reported. In March, researchers at Hopkins, Florida State University and Emory University shed light on the primary concern of Zika, which is its ability to cause microcephaly, a severe birth defect that

prevents the full development of an infant's brain.

In the present study, rather than trying to develop a new drug to tackle Zika, scientists are collaborating to conduct a screening of 6,000 existing drugs to discover if one of them may be an effective Zika therapy. All of these drugs have already been approved for human use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration or are in late-stage clinical trials.

"It takes years if not decades to develop a new drug," Hongjun Song, director of the Stem Cell Program in the Institute of Cell Engineering at Hopkins, told *The Hub*. "In this sort of global health emergency, we don't have that kind of time."

"So instead of using new drugs, we chose to screen existing drugs," Guo-li Ming, a professor of neurology at the School of Medicine, said according to *The Hub*.

SEE ZIKA, PAGE B9



MORGUEFILE/CC-BY-SA:3.0
Researchers are screening existing drugs to find new Zika therapies.

By SABRINA CHEN
Science & Technology Editor

Researchers at the U.S. Department of Agriculture have recently been investigating forms of food packaging other than traditional plastic wrap. One alternative they have taken particular interest in is edible, biodegradable packaging made out of casein, a milk protein. Not only is this material insensitive to light, it is up to 500 times better than plastic at keeping oxygen out of the product, according to the American Chemical Society (ACS).

"Everything is in smaller and smaller packaging, which is great for grabbing for lunch, for school, but then it generates so much waste," Laetitia Bonnaille, a USDA researcher who co-led the casein packaging research, said according to the ACS. "Edible packaging can be great for that."

Bonnaillie and her team presented their work at the 252nd National Meeting and Exposition of the ACS.

Bonnaillie and other researchers are currently working on ways to make the edible packaging more nutritious and flavorful. The current method of producing the packaging consists of creating a casein film by combining mixer and commercially available casein powder.

Glycerol is added to the film to make it softer, and then citrus pectin is added to improve the structure of the film. The citrus pectin is also able to help the film withstand humidity and extreme temperatures. Further flavorings and vitamins as well as probiotics and nutraceuticals can also



LYZADANFER/CC-BY-SA:2.0
Edible packaging, one alternative to traditional plastic wrap, is both biodegradable and health-enhancing.

be added at this time. These enhancements would not have much taste, so the flavor of the product would not be compromised. Bonnaille hopes that with the additives, the films will be more health-enhancing than edible packaging made from starches.

"The protein-based films are powerful oxygen blockers that help prevent food spoilage. When used in packaging, they could prevent food waste during distribution along the food chain," Peggy Tomasula, research co-leader, said to the ACS.

Edible packaging made of starch is currently commercially available. Companies like Loliware have sold gelatin-based edible drinking cups for two years. Edible cupcake wrappers made of potato starch has also been introduced. However, these types of packaging are more porous than casein and allows oxygen to seep through micro-holes, leading to spoiled

food. Casein, on the other hand, has smaller pores and can create a tighter network to keep oxygen out.

Researchers have taken particular interest in edible packaging because it is marketable to people of all ages. *Packaging Digest* reported that 87 percent of consumers in the developed world showed "some-what serious" concerns about global warming.

Though much research has already been done on this new form of food packaging, it may be many years before the USDA researchers can make it widely available. The research team is cur-

rently working to create prototype film samples for a small company in Texas. Bonnaille added that if the team continues to make progress, the casein packaging could be on store shelves within three years.

One major drawback of a casein film is that it dissolves in water. Therefore to be put on the market, casein requires an additional non-dissolving plastic or cardboard container to keep the product clean and dry. Bonnaille added, however, that most packages already come with this outer layer. Therefore, replacing the

SEE PACKAGING, PAGE B8

Four Hopkins undergraduates receive grants

By PAIGE FRANK
Staff Writer

Four Hopkins students are taking major strides in the crusade to cure cancer. Each of the four students was awarded \$5,000 and spent eight weeks this summer working on various research projects in the field of pediatric oncology.

The research was funded by Pediatric Oncology Student Training (POST) Grants distributed by Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation for Childhood Cancer. The four students, junior Sabrina Wang, junior Justin Thomas, senior Colburn (Colby) Yu and sophomore Huizi (Holly) Guo, were each awarded one of only 50 grants.

The POST Program was introduced in 2011 and its grants are aimed at supporting students interested in researching a specific area of pediatric oncology. Grant recipients have the opportunity to work with mentors from 24 different academic institutions around the country.

"I studied pediatric oncology in high school and fell in love with how

multidimensional oncology is. Cancer is way more complex than one cell or mutation," Thomas said.

The grants enable the students to work under a research mentor for a summer on a proposed project. The project can either be the continuation of an ongoing project the student has already invested in or an original investigation. Wang, Thomas, Yu and Guo competed against undergraduate, graduate and medical students across the country to secure each of their grants before the summer began.

The POST program was designed to expose students to the field of oncology by helping them develop practical research skills through a contemporary research project. The program stresses the benefits students will receive from working closely with an experienced mentor in the field of pediatric oncology.

The four Hopkins students each worked on a different project for the eight weeks over which they were funded. Wang worked with mentor Dr. Eric Raabe, focusing on brain tumors. Her work

was aimed at advancing a current potential pediatric brain tumor treatment toward preclinical trials. To do so, Wang targeted NOTCH, a key developmental gene in embryonal tumors with the treatment.

Guo also worked with Dr. Raabe. Her project aimed to uncover the result of knocking down LIN28B, a key developmental gene that has shown activation in pediatric brain tumors. Guo used mice to study the effects of LIN28B knockdown on tumorigenicity in the hope that the LIN28B knockdown mice would demonstrate delayed tumor growth.

Thomas worked with mentor Stacy Cooper on leukemia. His project focused on the enhancer region of CEBPA, a gene that controls the maturation of granulocyte-myeloid progenitors, cells in the blood that aid immune system development.

Ultimately Thomas hoped to show that this enhancer region of CEBPA was being silenced in acute myeloid leukemia and that if turned back on, it would cause cancer cells to mature or die with little chemotherapy.

Yu, the final Hopkins recipient, worked with Dr. Brian Ladle as his mentor studying osteosarcoma. He worked on determining the efficacy of pairing immune based therapies occasionally used for adult cancer patients with chemotherapy to treat pediatric osteosarcoma.

This summer, Yu worked to determine the type of chemotherapy best suited for pairing with the immunotherapy. As fall approaches, he will continue working to determine the proper timing and dosage for two treatments.

Wang, Guo, Thomas and Yu are just a few of the students currently working under experienced research faculty at Hopkins. For students still hoping to get involved with research this upcoming year, the POST grant recipients suggest taking the time to reach out to faculty in areas for which you have a genuine passion.

"Don't be afraid to ask a million questions," Yu said, "and more importantly, don't be afraid of changing labs if you're not interested in a particular subject."

Uber tests self-driving cars in Pittsburgh

By SCOTT ZHENG
For The News-Letter

Imagine calling for an Uber only to find that a car pulls up with no driver at the wheel. While such an event may only seem possible in science fiction movies, the project is already underway in Pittsburgh, home of the hotbed for robotics, Carnegie Mellon University (CMU), where Uber has been testing its self-driving technology.

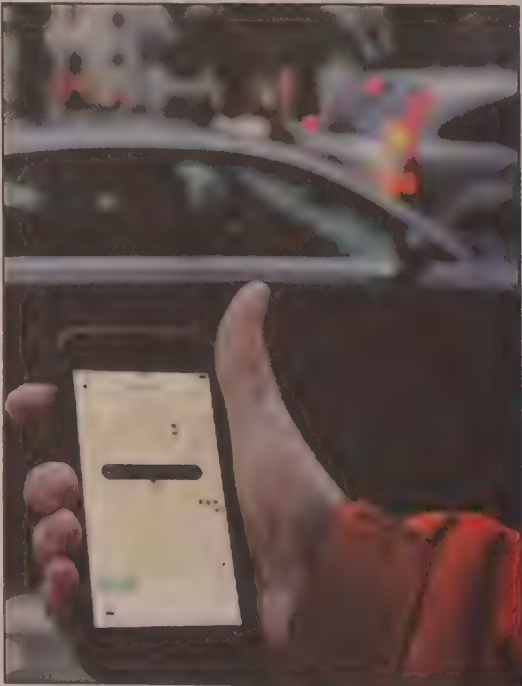
Travis Kalanick, CEO of Uber, is aiming to replace all of Uber's human drivers with self-driving cars and so has been recruiting engineers and mechanics to Carnegie

Robotics, a company which had been affiliated with CMU's Robotics Center. Uber is using approximately 100 Volvo XC90s in Pittsburgh that come equipped with self-driving technology.

Some passengers may be wary of getting into a car that does not have a human driver due to fears of vehicle malfunction.

However, in Uber's early stages of implementing self-driving cars, each car will have one engineer who will drive the car if needed, along with a co-pilot, who will document information on the quality

SEE UBER, PAGE B9



MARK WARNER/CC-BY:2.0
In the near future, a self-driving car may pull up when you call an Uber.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

BrainWave’s golden rule for science



Duy Phan
The Brain Wave

In my pursuit of scientific research, I have learned one very important lesson that holds true for all areas of science: The truth is simple. I am now going to declare this as *The Brain Wave’s* official golden rule for science.

Simple does not mean easy to understand. There are many scientific concepts that are hard to grasp at first but then become very simple once a sufficient level of understanding has been achieved.

What I mean by simple here is that the truth is clear, concrete and unclouded by any f**kery.

In recent times, the neuroscience field has seen an explosion in development of new tools and technologies. Some of these technologies include optogenetics (controlling brain activity with light), CLARITY (rendering a whole brain transparent) and live imaging of brain activity in intact and awake animals. Never before have there been so many options available for dissecting the mechanisms of brain function.

Although the explosion in tool development is very exciting for both basic scientists and even clinicians (especially as some of these technologies make their way to human applications), it is important to keep the end goal in sight — to discover truths and facts.

However, the end goal has now become far more convoluted. Who can afford the most fancy equipment? Who can use the latest techniques in their experiments? There are now more and more papers published in high-profile journals in which 90 percent of the focus is on fancy tools and technologies rather than answering scientific questions. Scientists are now spending thousands and thousands of dollars on massive equipment just for the sake of saying that they used the latest tool in neuroscience.

It is not necessarily wrong to focus on technique if your end goal is to make new tools. However, when you are claiming that you are answering a scientific question even though all you’ve done is show off that you can pull off challenging techniques, then that is false advertisement!

Many systems neuroscience papers do such false advertisement. These studies will often have the following pattern: 1) Make a mouse do a behavioral task, 2) Buy ultra-expensive microscope, 3) Perform crazy difficult surgical procedures to implant imaging window, 4) Image brain activity during behavior, 5) Find that region X is activated following a behavior, 6) Make conclusion that region X is involved in cognition, 7) Concoct a florid paper published in

Nature.

The problem is that these kinds of flashy studies have not really found anything new. After all, what do you expect the brain to do during a behavior? Of course there will be some kind of neural activity that goes on to produce the computation underlying the behavioral task. The most important questions remain unanswered: What is the logic of such neural circuit activity? Why are these neurons active and not those? So in the end, we have not really learned anything new, except that X and Y scientists in Z lab are just crazy good at doing flashy and fancy experiments.

Science does not have to be that complicated. You can teach anyone to perform work on the lab bench. What is very important (and not as easily taught) is the ability to ask a good scientific question and design simple and easy-to-do experiments that adequately address the question.

In the words of the legendary neuroscience professor Dr. Solomon Snyder from Johns Hopkins University, “The best experiments are ones that you can do in a day, and that will teach you something no matter the outcome.”

Newly discovered planet may contain water

By RAYYAN JOKHAI
Staff Writer

Proxima Centauri is the closest star to our planet (apart from the sun). It is located a little over four light years from our solar system. Proxima Centauri is invisible to the naked eye as it is not only further but also fainter than the Sun. This red dwarf sits near the Alpha Centauri AB, a binary pair of much brighter stars.

Proxima Centauri was the subject of close observation earlier this year. Scientists at the La Silla Observatory in Chile monitored it with the European Southern Observatory (ESO) 3.6-meter telescope.

This quest, called the Pale Red Dot campaign, was meant to determine whether or not Proxima Centauri wobbled. It was led by Guillem Anglada-Escudé and a group of astronomers from the Queen Mary University of London. Although determining whether or not a planet wobbles is a seemingly odd task, it is quite important in searching for planets other than our own that host life. Slight back and forth movements of a star would indicate that it is acted upon by a gravitational pull caused by an orbiting planet.

Speculation regarding a planet orbiting Proxima Centauri began in 2013, but the results

proved inconclusive. Since then, astronomers have been preparing for the early 2016 campaign, which would use ESO to draw more decisive observations. The Pale Red Dot escapade proved quite fruitful in doing so.

The team observed that Earth’s second closest star is in fact wobbling with a deviation of five kilometers. This simple forward and backward movement occurs over the course of 11.2 days and has allowed scientists to deduce that Proxima Centauri is orbited by a planet 1.3 times the mass of Earth at a seven million kilometer radius.

Despite initial excitement, Anglada-Escudé and his team were skeptical to publish results. Because red dwarfs are rather active stars, the motion of Proxima Centauri could be independent from the planet. To debunk this idea, the team pushed further and observed the star’s varying brightness and radial velocity during flares. The astronomers were then able to rule out the chance that the star was merely imitating the presence of a planet.

The planet, named Proxima b, orbits the habitable zone around Proxima Centauri, despite lying much closer to it than Earth does to the Sun. Proxima Centauri is a fainter star, so its hospitable region is much



ESO/M. KORNMESSER/CC-BY-4.0
An artist’s rendition of Proxima b orbiting the red dwarf star.

closer. Proxima b actually has an estimated surface temperature that would allow for the presence of liquid water but may suffer from UV and X-ray exposure from the star.

Because of its close proximity to the red dwarf, it is much more susceptible to undesirable light rays from solar flares than the Earth is from the Sun. Our planet’s size and distance from the Sun allows for the existence of water while preventing most UV and X-ray light from hitting its surface.

While the presence of water on Proxima b cannot be ruled out, it is likely that water only exists in selective parts of the surface of the planet, specifically the half of

the planet facing Proxima Centauri (the tropical belt). Although studies of the planet’s weather have not been exhaustive, Proxima b’s climate is quite different from Earth’s since it does not have seasons.

In the search for extraterrestrial life, Proxima b may be the subject of further studies as the presence of liquid water on the planet seems quite probable.

With the new wave of telescopes in use, we can hope to see more in-depth studies on Proxima b’s ability to support life. Proxima b also lies within Alpha Centauri, which is the first system outside of our own into which humankind hopes to venture.

Researchers use ultrasound to help patient recover from coma

By JOAN YEA
Senior Staff Writer

Neuromodulation techniques, as opposed to standard pharmacological methods, have enabled the direct and localized revitalization of malfunctioning neuronal circuits. Treatment via neuromodulation has been applied to various conditions including neurological disorders, chronic pain and, as of most recently, in disorders of consciousness.

In a letter to the editor published in July 2016 in the journal *Brain Stimulation*, UCLA associate professor of psychology and neurosurgery and lead

author Martin Monti presented a case in which low intensity focused ultrasound pulsation (LIFUP), a neuromodulation technique, helped a 25-year-old patient recover from a coma. This report was the first to describe the utilization of LIFUP in treating a disorder of consciousness.

The patient, following a severe brain injury, had not fully recovered from his coma and had fallen into a disorder of consciousness, specifically the minimally conscious state, when he was recruited into the clinical trial led by Monti. On the day prior to the neuromodulation

therapy, the patient, reduced to his minimally conscious state, presented a Coma Recovery Scale-Revised (CRS-R) rating of 15. Shortly before the administration of LIFUP, the patient’s CRS-R rating was noted to have worsened to a rating of 14.

Utilizing a device containing an ultrasound transducer, the research team administered sonications at a repetition frequency of 100 Hz a total of 10 times with each sonication lasting 30 seconds. The transducer, secured to the right side of the patient’s head, was positioned so that the patient’s thalamus was stimulated. An area commonly found diminished in patients suffering from a post-coma disorder of consciousness, the thalamus, functions as a central regulator of sensory information and motor control. It

receives sensory signals and relays them to the cerebral cortex.

Following the sonication of the patient’s thalamus, the research team conducted two additional assessments of the patient’s level of consciousness to determine the efficacy of the neuromodulation treatment. Although the patient presented a CRS-R of 13 shortly after the sonication, he sufficiently recovered to a CRS-R of 17 the day after the procedure and began to regain some motor responses and vocalizations. Three days after the LIFUP, the patient was not only able to fully comprehend language, but also respond to commands and communicate by nodding and shaking his head. Five days after the LIFUP, the patient recovered sufficiently enough to stand up and attempt to walk.

The researchers, however, note in their report that at the time of publication they could not be certain that the LIFUP was responsible for the patient’s unexpected rehabilitation due to the lack of sufficient evidence for a causal link. Whether this patient was able to serendipitously recover from the minimally conscious state is still unclear. Never-

theless, the researchers intend to continue testing the LIFUP on other patients as part of their clinical research. If the neuromodulation technology proves to be equally effective with other patients, the researchers speculate that the transducer may be further developed into a portable device for wide usage and accessibility.

Even in its current form, the LIFUP technique is non-invasive and capable of the neuromodulation of deep brain nuclei, including those in the thalamus.

Other neuromodulation techniques such as deep brain stimulation and transcranial direct current stimulation, have a number of limitations. Deep brain stimulation, an invasive procedure, requires surgery and the implantation of electrodes.

While the transcranial direct current stimulation is non-invasive, it is limited in its ability to stimulate deep brain nuclei. Lacking the drawbacks of these two neuromodulation techniques and potentially capable of even treating a disorder of consciousness, the LIFUP shows therapeutic promise and is certain to be the subject of further studies.



ANDREASHORN/CC-BY-SA-4.0
Deep brain stimulation techniques are used to help patients recover from their comas.

Casein protein packaging to serve as alternative to plastic wrap

PACKAGING, FROM B7
inner layer with casein film would still be beneficial for the environment.

One example of consuming a casein packaging could be a dissolving packet of dried soups. Dropping the entire pouch of powder into hot

water would dissolve the entire packet, with the dissolving casein film adding additional protein to the soup.

Furthermore, there are additional uses for this protein in its liquid form. Liquid casein can be sprayed onto cereal

flakes and bars. Casein could take the place of the traditional sugar coating found on cereal, helping to maintain crunch without added sugar. The protein could also be sprayed on pizza boxes to prevent grease stains. This could be particular-

ly beneficial in the near future as the U.S. Food & Drug Administration has recently banned the perfluorinated chemicals traditionally used to coat pizza boxes.

“The coatings applications for this product are endless,” Bonnaillie said

according to the American Chemical Society. “We are currently testing applications such as single-serve, edible food wrappers. For instance, individually wrapped cheese sticks use a large proportion of plastic — we would like to fix that.”

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Uber and Volvo develop self-driving cars

UBER, FROM B7
of the drive and whether there were any issues during it.

In addition, Uber will waive the fare of all rides by the self-driving cars for the duration of the testing.

On the other hand, this could mean bad news for Uber drivers. If the self-driving project is deemed successful, there might be progressively more self-driving cars for Uber, which means fewer jobs for drivers.

Uber acquired its self-driving technology from a startup called Otto. Initially, Otto's self-driving technology was supposed to be applied to delivery trucks,

but they have expanded to work with Uber vehicles.

Furthermore, the founders of Otto had previously worked for Google's self-driving project. By developing self-driving cars, Google aims to reduce the 12 million traffic accidents worldwide, of which about 94 percent are caused by human error. Google is currently testing their self-driving cars in Austin, TX; Kirkland, Wash.; Phoenix, Ariz. and Mountain View, Calif.

One of the founders of Otto, Anthony Levandowski, revealed that he left Google's project be-

cause the company was developing at a slower-than-expected pace. Uber seems to be willing to move at a faster pace into human passenger trials.

"We were really excited about building something that could be launched early," Levandowski said to *Bloomberg*.

Because Levandowski brought along several more members to Otto from Google, Google's self-driving project seems to have stalled.

There is now a major push from Uber to have an entirely self-driven fleet of cars by 2021.

Volvo is currently the only car brand that is in-

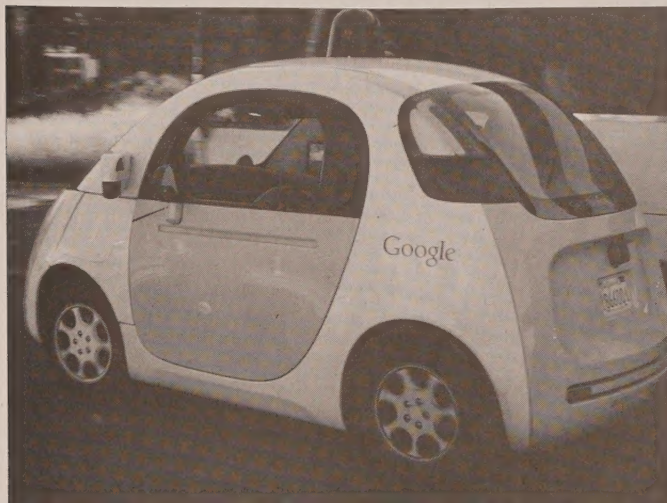
Other companies that offer self-driving cars include Tesla Motors, with their autopilot feature which can be used on highways and Google, which has been seen as the leader for years but is progressing at a slower rate. However, Uber is the only company that offers a self-driving car sharing service.

Kalanick predicts that transportation via self-driving car will eventually be cheaper than buying and owning a car in the long-term. This could be seen as a threat for automobile companies such as Volvo, who have already gotten in on the movement. However, car companies see it as something else.

"We see it as an opportunity," Håkan Samuelsson, CEO of Volvo Cars, said to *Bloomberg*.

We are still in the early days of self-driving technology, and there have been a fair share of accidents involving Tesla's Autopilot and Google's cars. Uber, nevertheless, seems to be learning from the lessons of these two companies by having an engineer ready to take the wheel at a moment's notice in case something were to go wrong.

It may not be long before we start seeing fewer drivers on the road, and with them potentially fewer car accidents.



MICHAEL SHICK/CC-BY-SA-4.0

Other companies, such as Google, are also interested in the self-driving car market.

Dogs may be able to understand human speech

By ELIZABETH LIU
Science & Technology Editor

Your dogs may understand more than you give them credit for. A study conducted by researchers from Hungary has found that dogs can understand the meaning and intonation of words using brain regions similar to those that humans use.

There are two main tools humans can use to convey meaning and analyze speech — lexicon and intonation. Words

are the building blocks of human language and intonation is a way that information can be understood through emotional content of a sound.

For instance, in human speech patterns, praise tends to be conveyed with higher and varying pitches. When processing speech, humans can use both lexical and intonational cues to arrive at a complete understanding of the content being conveyed.

It is no surprise that

dogs have an awareness of human language and speech. Previous studies have observed that domesticated dogs can understand humans better than their wolf counterparts, match objects to words and learn different elements of grammar.

However, these new findings, published in the journal *Science*, take a look inside the canine brain using an imaging machine. Using this technique, researchers found that dogs are more similar to humans than previously thought — not only do they process vocabulary and intonation in separate areas of the brain, but they do so in the in the same regions as humans.

Researchers from the Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE) in Budapest, Hungary recruited 13 dogs, mostly golden retrievers and border collies. They were trained to lay completely still in an fMRI machine for several minutes. The dogs were unrestrained and could leave the machine whenever they wished. Since they were inside the fMRI machine, they could not see the trainers and researchers.

During the experiment, the dogs were exposed to recordings of the trainers' voices, which contained multiple combinations of vocabulary and intonation where the trainer spoke different words of praise and neutral words in Hungarian.

Words of praise included common phrases used by dog owners such as "good boy," "well done" and "clever." Neutral words included words that the researchers believed were meaningless to the dogs, such as "yet," "however" and "nevertheless." Both praise words and neutral words were said in positive and neutral tones.

The researchers found that areas in the left hemisphere of dog's brains react to vocabulary while areas of the right hemisphere react to intonation. A word associated with praise said in a positive tone activated the reward system of a dog's brain. All other conditions resulted in less activity, including both a praise word said in a neutral tone and a neutral word said in a positive tone garnered the same neural response.

This shows that dogs are not only able to differentiate vocabulary and intonation but are also able to combine the two and correctly interpret what the words really mean. The researchers hope that these findings will help make cooperation and communication between humans and dogs more efficient.

While these results reveal the way dogs process and analyze human language and speech, the findings also shed light onto the way human understanding of speech could have developed. It suggests that the ability to process meaning and emotion separately and then analyze them together to understand speech could have evolved in non-primates long before humans even began to speak.

The researchers also believe that their findings could shed light onto what it really means to be human.

"Humans seem to be the only species which uses words and intonation for communicating emotions, feelings, inner states," Attila Andics, ELTE neuroscientist and first author of the study, said in an interview with NPR. "To find that dogs have a very similar neural mechanism to tell apart meaningful words from meaningless sound sequences is, I think, really amazing."

Obesity threatens American lifespans

By SABRINA CHEN
Science & Technology Editor

Recent studies have shown that Americans are living longer. However, this increased life expectancy may come hand in hand with an increase in years spent living with disability.

According to a recent study done at the Louisiana State University Health Sciences New Orleans School of Medicine (LSUHSC), the 78 million Americans who were born in the "baby boom" period following World War II will mostly live longer than their parents.

The analysis studied data from over 187 countries and looked at over 250 diseases and 50 risk factors for disease. It concluded that life expectancy in the United States has risen by over three years since 1990, from 75 to 78.6. The nation has, however, fallen from 27th to 20th among OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) countries in terms of overall health.

"I'm a baby boomer as well and to some degree statistically we do not seem to be as healthy," Herbert Muncie, professor of family medicine at LSUHSC said according to *The Wall Street Journal*. "We seem to have much more chronic disease than our parents did."

It has, in fact, been shown that for an average American, the years spent living with chronic disability (an indicator of quality of life), has only increased over the past 20 years. This is partially due to the aging of the population.

An earlier study conducted at the beginning of this year shows significant progress in reducing death rates for a variety of different diseases. The study also proved that for illnesses such as obesity, diabetes, kidney disease and Alzheimer's disease, the death rate is on the rise. The study was published online by the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (JAMA). It was the first major analysis measuring health status for the United States in more than 15 years.

A decrease in quality of life and overall health also has significant implications for the American economy. Current annual health care amounts to nearly 18 percent of the gross domestic

product, according to the American Medical Association. "Despite a level of health expenditures that would have seemed unthinkable a generation ago, the health of the U.S. population has improved only gradually and has fallen behind the pace of progress in many other wealthy nations," said Harvey V. Fineberg, president of the Institute of Medicine, in an editorial accompanying the JAMA report.

Because the United States' ranking has declined among the 34 OECD member countries within the past decade, this has put the United States at a disadvantage with regards to the global job market.

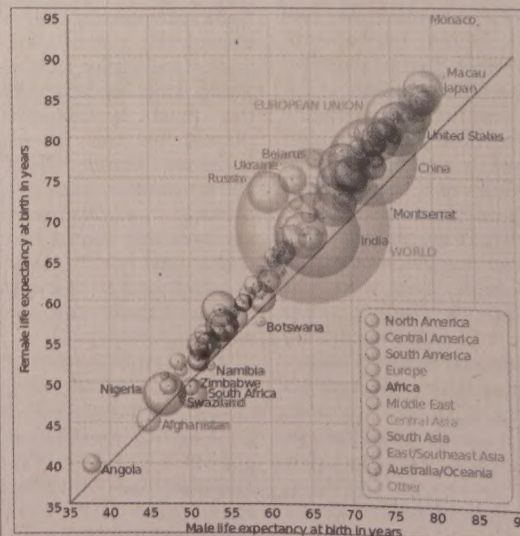
However, potential adjustments made by the U.S. population could address and alleviate this issue of chronic disability and overall unhealthy lifestyles. Better diets and smaller food portions would help to overcome disorders like diabetes and obesity. Increased physical activity, quitting smoking and better management of stress would lead to higher overall quality of life.

The JAMA study also found that poor dietary habits have overtaken smoking as the most important risk factor associated with years of life lost to disability. This result proved the importance of portion control and healthy eating to researchers.

According to trainer and nutritionist Harley Pasternak, who traveled the world to research for his novel, *The 5-Factor World Diet*, Americans eat far larger portions than people living in other countries. Pasternak added that as a nation, Americans do not make it a priority to eat locally and tend to add large amounts of salt, sugar and thickening agents to our food.

Pasternak added that in each of the most "healthily ranked" nations from around the world, people tend to walk a lot more than they do in the U.S., which is a natural form of exercise that sedentary Americans forego.

"Eat in a healthy manner, really get regular exercise and get those regular checkups," Dr. Muncie said according to *The Wall Street Journal*. "It's not so much the quantity of life which is important, but it is really the quality of life."



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Life expectancy is under threat from obesity in the United States.

Researchers screen drugs to fight Zika

ZIKA, FROM B7
"In this way, we hope to create a therapy much more quickly."

Earlier this year, the team of researchers discovered that Zika targets neural progenitor stems that eventually develop into neurons comprising the cortex cells in the brains of infants. The team was able to observe Zika's effects in "mini-brains", or 2D and 3D cell cultures that are composed of cells similar to those in the brain during embryonic development. These "mini-brains" provided scientists with a realistic model of the human brain to study human infection.

The researchers exposed these 3D cell cultures, called organoids, to Zika and different drugs one at a time. They looked for specific markers of cell death, like caspase 3 activity and ATP, a molecule that catalyzes cell vitality. After cells are infected with Zika, the damage is usually significant and irreversible. A few particular drugs tested in the Zika-

infected cells allowed the cells to survive longer and in some cases to fully recover.

Overall the scientists found three particular drugs that could potentially be developed into an anti-Zika therapy: PHA-690509, a compound with antiviral properties, Emricasan, a drug that is now in clinical trials to reduce damage to the liver in Hepatitis C and Niclosamide, a drug already used in humans and livestock to combat parasitic infections.

Though these drugs warrant further research and attention, Song cautioned that while these drugs are effective in combating Zika in cells, their effects on treating Zika in humans could be different. Additionally, the researchers are unsure of how these drugs would combat other aspects of Zika in adults, like the paralysis induced from Guillain-Barré Syndrome. The researchers now plan to test these drugs in animal models to get a better picture of their efficacy *in vivo*.

SPORTS

BLUE JAY SPORTS SCOREBOARD			
M. Cross Country	W. Cross Country	Football	M. Soccer
Sept. 1, 2016	Sept. 1, 2016	Sept. 1, 2016	Sept. 1, 2016
@ Baltimore Metro Invitational 1st of 4 (15 points)	@ Baltimore Metro Invitational 1st of 5 (15 points)	vs. Washington and Lee Generals W, 45-29	@ Goucher College T, 1-1 (2 OT)
W. Volleyball	Field Hockey	M. Water Polo	M. Soccer
Sept. 2, 2016	Sept. 2, 2016	Sept. 3, 2016	Sept. 3, 2016
@ Penn State Altoona W, 3-0	vs. Washington and Lee Generals W, 2-1	@ Harvard University L, 18-14	vs. Bethany College T, 1-1 (2 OT)

Cary matches TD record in first game

By ANDREW JOHNSON
Sports Editor

The first day of class always brings with it certain levels of electricity, jitters and excitement for the start of a new semester. It was fitting that the Homewood Campus would play host to a tough matchup on the gridiron.

The Hopkins football team kicked off their season against the highly touted Washington and Lee Generals. The energy in the crowd was tangible and for good reason, as two qualified teams took the field.

The Blue Jays program has reached a level of regular season dominance over the past five seasons, which cannot be superseded by any other

stretch in its history.

The Blue Jays are coming off of a perfect 10-0 regular season and yet another Centennial Conference crown. They are ranked 15th in the D3football.com pre-season polls and have won 53 of their 54 past regular season games.

The 20th-ranked Generals also came into the contest riding the momentum of an unblemished regular season record in 2015, making this the only game in all of D-III football featuring two teams who finished last season undefeated.

Fueling off the energy of the home crowd, the Blue Jays raced out to an early 14-0 lead in the opening quarter. The early success was propelled by the multi-dimensional Ryan Cary, who seems primed for a breakout campaign in his junior season.

Both of the Jays opening drives were capped off with 12-yard runs by Cary, who was able to use his burst to breeze past defenders on his way to the end zone.

The Generals utilized their highly praised running attack to get back into the game, cutting the deficit down to 21-14 early in the second quarter of play.

Cary delivered his third touchdown of the

day by catching a pass from senior quarterback Jonathan Germano and racing 38 yards into the end zone.

Late in the second half, Cary darted into the end zone on an 11-yard run amounting to his fourth and final touchdown of the game, allowing the Jays to open up a 28-14 lead, a margin which they would hold onto for the remainder of the contest. Ultimately, Hopkins ended the game with a solid 45-29 victory.

Cary had the best game of his career as a Blue Jay, finishing with a career-high 158 yards on the ground to go along with 69 yards receiving. His four-touchdown total matches the school record, signaling to the Conference that Cary and the Jays offense are a force to be reckoned with this season.

When asked to comment on his breakout performance, Cary attributed his success to the hard work the team put forward in the off season.

"Everybody was just ready to play a tough opponent, and that helped spark us and really get the team fired up to play," Cary said.

Offensively, the Jays amassed an even 500 yard total on the day,

with 276 rushing and 224 passing. Standout quarterback Germano led the passing attack for the Jays with 176 yards and two touchdowns.

Although the defense surrendered 350 yards on the ground, they were able to hold the Generals below their 408 yard per game average in the 2015 season. Better yet, the Generals were only able to amass 60 yards passing.

While the opening victory against a quality opponent is an excellent start to the 2016 campaign for the Blue Jays, Cary was quick to point out that the team still has a long season ahead of them.

"It's important to never be complacent with one performance, especially knowing that it was a non-Conference game," Cary said. "Although we love getting the win, it doesn't really help our ultimate goal of winning the Conference. So it is key we stay focused on the team goals."

The Blue Jays will return to the field after their first win of the season this upcoming Saturday, Sept. 10. They will travel to Selinsgrove, Pa. to take on the Susquehanna University River Hawks. Kickoff is scheduled for 1 p.m.

MLB teams boast competitive lineups

MLB, FROM B12
In the second half and are finally starting to pitch to their potential. The Orioles also boast a lights-out bullpen, which is headlined by virtually unhittable closer Zach Britton. With clever and resourceful manager Buck Showalter at the helm, the Orioles are absolutely capable of winning important games when they matter most.

In Boston, the Red Sox are back to their winning ways after two down seasons. Mookie Betts, Xander Bogaerts, Jackie Bradley Jr., Dustin Pedroia and David Ortiz have all led the balanced offense, by each demonstrating the ability to hit for both average and power. Expect top prospect Yoan Moncada, who was just called up to the majors for the stretch run, to serve as yet another strong element for what is already the best statistical offense in baseball.

On the Sox's pitching side, Rick Porcello has rebounded from a disappointing and injury-riddled 2015 with a Cy Young-caliber season. Prized

"...the Orioles are absolutely capable of winning important games when they matter most."

free agent acquisition David Price has rebounded from his early-season struggles and has been able to pitch deep into ball games on a regular basis.

In addition, Drew Pomeranz is looking like a great trade deadline acquisition, as he allowed a total of 11 runs in his six August starts. If knuckleballer Steven Wright, who has recently dealt with shoulder issues, gets back to full strength, the Red Sox will have more than enough starting pitching to complement their potent offense.

Throw in closer Craig Kimbrel as the cherry on top, and you are looking at a very dangerous and very deep Red Sox team that is more than capable of bringing another championship to Boston.

Last but not least, the Toronto Blue Jays appear to have all of the pieces in place to build on last year's playoff appearance, their first since 1993. Reigning MVP Josh Donaldson has been every bit as dominant in 2016 as he was in 2015 while slugger Edwin Encarnación has been an absolute machine in what will be the strongest offensive season of his career thus far.

José Bautista, who has battled injuries over

the past several months, appears to be healthy for the stretch run and should thrive in his new role as the team's powerful leadoff hitter.

Encarnación and Bautista will both be free agents at the end of the season and are going to be looking at some massive contract offers that could very well pry them away from Toronto.

The Blue Jays' need to capitalize on their opportunity to win a championship this season before potentially losing two focal points of their offense. Beyond those three, Michael Saunders and Troy Tulowitzki are putting up decent numbers in their second seasons in Toronto. They have solidified the Blue Jay offense into one that is every bit as good as Baltimore's and Boston's.

Toronto also has the best starting pitching in the division. Led by youngster Aaron Sanchez and consistent veterans J.A. Happ and Marco Estrada, the Blue Jays have the lowest starting rotation ERA in the American League. Their

bullpen is also dominant with flamethrower Roberto Osuna at the back-end.

With all of the pieces that they have in place, the Blue Jays could

be the most legitimate World Series contender of these three teams.

The AL East race will be the one to watch down the stretch, but the other American League powerhouses — Cleveland and Texas — have already all but clinched their division titles and are also threats to make deep postseason runs.

Also, Miguel Cabrera and the Detroit Tigers, José Altuve and the Houston Astros and the defending champion Kansas City Royals still have legitimate shots at the second wild card spot. However, if Baltimore, Boston and Toronto keep playing the way they have been, it is hard to see one of these teams sneaking into the playoffs.

The wild card game is essentially a toss-up, so capturing the division title is absolutely vital for these three teams. With all of these competitive lineups considered, who will come out on top? We probably won't find out the answer to this until game 162.



HOPKINSPORTS.COM
Junior running back Ryan Cary

Tournament kicks off W. Soccer's hopeful season

By GAURAV VERMA
Sports Editor

Expectations are high for the Hopkins Women's Soccer team entering the 2016 season after coming off a Centennial Conference Championship. The Blue Jays enter the season projected second in the preseason coaches poll and should remain a strong contender. The team has made the past 11 NCAA Tournaments, a streak they are expected to continue in 2016.

Seniors Ana Bengoechea and Alexa Rangecroft, who served as captains last season, will again lead this year's team. They are accompanied by classmate Meg Van de Loo, who was Hopkins' leading scorer in 2015 and a third-team National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) All-American last season. The Blue Jays are also returning a pair of third-team All-Conference members: Senior midfielder Adrienne Johnson and sophomore forward Kristen Hori.

Senior Clara Aranguren and junior Bess Kitzmiller are back as the team's most experienced goalkeepers entering the season. The pair combined to start 18 games last season and have so far split the duties in net to start off the year.

Hopkins returns an experienced group of defenders, led by senior Katie McEneaney, who started 19 games last season and senior Jessica Moog. Both are amongst the most experienced players on the roster. Likewise, junior Thea Harvey-Brown was on the field in all 20 games last year and scored the team's lone goal in their loss to Bowdoin College in the NCAA Tournament.

Also returning is junior Hallie Horvath, who tallied two assists in the Centennial Conference playoffs a year ago. The midfield was hard-hit after losing team captain Maryalice McKenna and classmates Alaina Arthur and Issy Berkey,

both who were amongst the team leaders in goals scored in 2015.

Senior defenders Bengoechea and Johnson will hope to fill this void. They will rely heavily on their Senior classmate Vania Ludman who was amongst the team's most statistically productive players last year, tallying two goals and four assists. However, a number of rookie players will have the opportunity to fight for critical minutes in the rotation.

Up field, senior attack Meg Van de Loo will carry the team along with sophomore forward Kristen Hori. Van de Loo tallied an impressive 17 goals in 2015 while Hori was able to deliver six goals and a team-leading nine assists of her own accord. Freshmen forward Kristen Nixon will help round out a talented attack that is expected to strike fear in the opposing defense all season long.

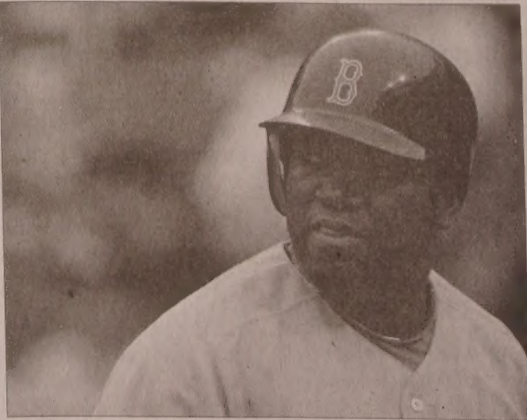
The Jays participated in the Shellenberger Classic for their season

opener against Lynchburg College. Hopkins took the lead courtesy of Van de Loo in the 67th minute and were able to hold onto the lead until the 89th minute, when Lynchburg netted the late equalizer.

Battling into double-overtime and unable to capitalize on four corner kick opportunities, the Blue Jays settled to tie the match at 1-1. Later, in the second game of the Shellenberger Classic, the Jays bounced back with a resounding 3-0 victory against Roanoke College.

A second half offensive explosion bolstered Hopkins, with goals from Bengoechea, Hori and Morgan at the 53rd, 81st and 90th minutes respectively. Kitzmiller, in her first start of the year, made three saves to earn the shutout.

The Blue Jays are scheduled to play next against the College of New Jersey on Saturday afternoon at the Homewood Field. Kickoff is set to start at 1 p.m.



KEITH ALLISON/CC BY-SA 2.0
Red Sox Slugger David Ortiz looks to lead the team into October.

SPORTS

Four NFL teams may surprise in 2016 season

Andrew Johnson
Sportpinion

September has always been my favorite month of the year, especially as I have grown older and the meaning of "summer vacation" has begun to lose its luster. September brings with it all the delights of fall — the changing colors of the leaves, lessening humidity and cooling temperatures that make it ideal hoodie weather. My birthday also falls in September. Therefore, the arrival of the NFL season each year will forever be one of my favorite presents.

As a longtime resident of central New Jersey, I fall right on the dividing line between Giants and Eagles country. As luck would have it, my father hailed from the northern portion of the state and his father bled blue and red, thus making me a Giants fan from the day I emerged from the womb. I have seen and experienced so many great moments in my 21 years of Giants fandom, and the memories of those two Super Bowl wins over future Hall of Famer Tom Brady and the Patriots certainly top the list. However, in recent years I have seen my beloved team descend into mediocrity; Big Blue has now missed the postseason in six of the last seven years. Their only breakthrough during this period was the magical 2011 campaign, where they steamrolled through the playoffs as the fourth seed in the NFC with a 9-7 record.

Some things in the NFL remain constant, like the fact that the Patriots will probably win 11 or 12 games yet again even without Tom Brady during the first quarter of the season or the fact that a healthy Aaron Rodgers probably guarantees the Packers the NFC North crown. However, as a whole, the NFL is filled with yearly unpredictability. Who expected the Panthers to emerge as juggernauts on both sides of the ball last season en route to a 15-1 regular season campaign? That team had notched a record of 7-8-1 the season before. Nevertheless, 2015 brought with it the emergence of Cam

Newton as an MVP candidate and brought the Panthers to the pinnacle of a championship.

I am going to identify a few teams who did not qualify for the postseason in 2015 who I believe have an excellent shot at breaking over the hump this year. The traditional turnover of five to six new playoff teams was broken in 2015, when only four new teams were added to the playoff mix: the Washington Redskins, who unexpectedly filled the void created by the Cowboys to seize the underwhelming NFC East, the Minnesota Vikings, who were spurred on by a rapidly improving young defense, the Houston Texans and their brilliant duo of J.J. Watt and DeAndre Hopkins and finally the Kansas City Chiefs, who were led defensively by a cancer-free Eric Berry and mistake free offensive football.

So who are the candidates in 2016 to make the leap? Perhaps the most trendy pick would be the Oakland Raiders, who have not qualified for the playoffs since the 2002 season. On offense, the Raiders bring back Derek Carr, who proved he has the moxie of an elite NFL quarterback during a very impressive sophomore season in which he threw for nearly 4,000 yards and 32 touchdowns. Another offseason of development with budding star receiver Amari Cooper should be enough for both players to take the next step toward superstardom.

Defensively, the Silver and Black are led by linebacker Khalil Mack, who has the athleticism, tenacity and pass rushing prowess to incite fear in the hearts of all opposing offensive coordinators. In a division which returns the defending NFL Champions, the Denver Broncos minus Peyton Manning, I think the Raiders have enough talent and balance both offensively and defensively to unseat the Broncos in the AFC West.

The AFC South is also firmly up for grabs. While I expect the Titans to display marked improvement in Marcus Mariota's second season, a lack of talent on the defensive side of the ball will ultimately plague their post-

season chances. While the Texans should stand a solid chance at a repeat in 2016, both the Indianapolis Colts and Jacksonville Jaguars will be breathing down their necks. However, the Texans retain a stingy defense and should take a step forward offensively with the additions of Brock Osweiler and Lamar Miller.

A resurgent season from Andrew Luck is also certainly in play, as he could take the kind of leap that Cam Newton made from his injury-plagued 2014 into his MVP 2015 season. Luck has been battered by an atrocious offensive line during his first four seasons in the NFL, ultimately costing him the final nine games of 2015 with a lacerated kidney. The Colts responded in the off-season by spending two of their first three draft picks on offensive line talent.

If Luck remains upright and healthy in 2016, he has the kind of weapons on the outside to put up MVP caliber numbers. While the AFC South has gotten much stronger as a whole, expect the Colts to capture the division. While I am a fan of the moves the Jaguars have made over the past few seasons, I still believe that they are a few years away from being an above average defensive unit. Blake Bortles will be able to keep them in contest by chucking the ball up to the talented duo of Allen Robinson and Allen Hurns on the outside, but I see Jacksonville ultimately losing too many touchdowns to be a real playoff factor.

The NFC East should be wide open. I firmly believe that the Giants possess all the ingredients to capture this mediocre division. After sustaining yet another back injury, Tony Romo will be sidelined for at least the first half of the season. The Giants have the most experienced and battle-tested quarterback in the division in Eli Manning, and also possess perhaps the most dynamic receiving threat in Odell Beckham Jr. A healthy Victor Cruz and the talented Sterling Shepherd should combine to give the Giants a potent passing attack.

While questions abound on the offensive line and the running game, expect the Giants to be a top-five offensive unit through the air this season. Defensively, the Giants massively upgraded a unit which was absolutely

atrocious last year. After ranking dead last in yards allowed and blowing numerous fourth quarter leads in the final moments of regulation, there really is nowhere to go but up.

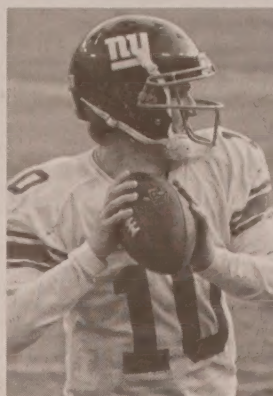
Olivier Vernon should prove to be a dynamic addition to the pass rush, while Damon Harrison possesses the strength and skill

set to clog running lanes, create interior penetration and harass the quarterback. A dominant pass rush can often mask the flaws of a mediocre secondary by preventing the QB from settling into a rhythm and identifying targets downfield. Led in past years by Michael Strahan, Justin Tuck and Osi Umenyiora, the Giants have a history of utilizing a dominant defensive line to win crucial games — just ask the Patriots about that. The NFC East will be won by the first team who can get to ten victories, and ultimately I believe we will see the Giants on top at season's end.

In the NFC South, look for the Falcons to potentially challenge the dominance of Carolina. While a 5-0 start a season ago proved to be a mirage, Atlanta possesses the talent to make a return to the postseason and build on their 8-8 record from a year ago. Head Coach Dan Quinn has a strong defensive pedigree and was able to transform the Falcons into a league average unit in his first season. If the defense can make additional progress this year, the ultimate performance of the team falls on the shoulders of embattled quarterback Matt Ryan.

Ryan will need to regain the confidence and poise which made him one of the brightest stars at his position just a few years ago. Luckily, he has the weaponry to make it possible as the team brings back the dynamic Julio Jones, who may very well be the most physically gifted receiver in football. Throw in a strong encore performance from the shifty, multit talented Devonta Freeman, and we could see the Falcons climb to 11 or 12 wins and challenge for the NFC South crown.

Ultimately, these predictions may ring true or prove to be completely hollow. That is the beauty of the National Football League, which manages to produce so much unpredictability even when much remains constant. So sit back, relax and enjoy the ride. It is September once again.



MIKE MORBECK/CC BY-SA 2.0
Giants Quarterback Eli Manning.

Cross country teams dominate first meet

By EMILIE HOFFER
Sports Editor

The Men's and Women's Cross Country teams asserted their strength as they kicked off the season last Thursday at the Baltimore Metro Invitational, hosted by the Stevenson Mustangs. The Jays lived up to their hefty preseason predictions with both the men and women finishing with perfect team scores. After finishing fourth at nationals last season, the Jays enter the 2016 season ranked top in the region and third in the country. Meanwhile, the men, who finished second in the Mideast Regional last season, are predicted to finish third in the region by the Cross Country Coaches Association. They will return four of their top five runners from Regionals.

Both teams dominated their respective fields, even though they planned to be smart and conservative. Head Coach Bobby Van Allen wanted the men and women to focus on running in packs and treat the race as any other workout. The teams were told to conserve energy in the first half of the race before asserting themselves during the final two kilometers.

Sophomore Felicia Koerner led the women as the repeat champion of the Baltimore Metro Invitational. She crossed the line in 14:37, with teammates freshman Samantha Levy and sophomore Natalia LaSpada following closely. The women would end up finishing in 19 of the top 20 spots, an incredible feat for such a young team.

"Our overall result was strong, but what really impressed me was how well we managed to work together right through to the finish," Koerner said about her team's successful execution of the intended race strategy. "Racing together is crucial. Anything we can do to bump other runners back a few spots will go a long way."

The Jays certainly delivered as they finished with a perfect team

score crossing the line in the first five spots to take the win over the Stevenson Mustangs. Only one Stevenson runner broke into the top 20 finishers, in what was certainly a dominant opening performance for this Jays squad.

Likewise, the men's team did not disappoint as they too finished with a perfect score, taking the first five spots in their race. The Mustangs again finished second in the team scoring. The team was led by junior Louis Levine, who crossed the line with a time of 12:48. Levine was followed closely by his teammates, freshman Andrew King and sophomore Alex Doran, who would cross the line in second and third respectively.

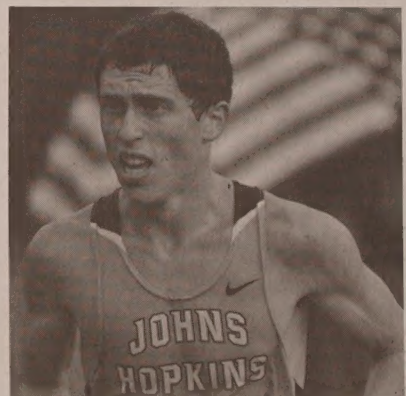
Like the women, the men's team planned to run in a relaxed fashion for the first half of the race. Even so, the men filled 18 of the top 20 spots. Impressively, just nine seconds separated the team's top seven finishers as they successfully kept in packs through the race.

"We treated the race more as a workout, and a chance to practice running together as a team," Levine said.

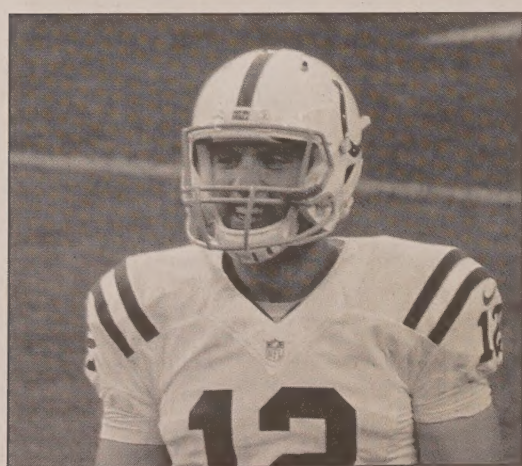
A main focus for both the men and the women this season will be to continue to run together as a team by staying in close packs. Thursday's race was about as good of a result as the teams could have hoped for.

"I am definitely excited to get more into the season and race more. I am looking forward to being able to race with my teammates, and see the results of our hard work," Levine said.

Both the men and women will return hungry and toe the line on Friday Sept. 16 at 10 a.m. They will be traveling to the Bronx, N.Y. to race at Van Cortlandt Park.



HOPKINSPORTS.COM
Louis Levine won the Baltimore Metro Invitational.



JEFFREY BEALL/CC BY-SA 2.0
Andrew Luck is looking to lead the Colts back to the playoffs in 2016.

Men's Soccer looks to avenge 2015 heartbreak

M. SOCCER, FROM B12
who include junior Mike Swiercz, junior Drew Collins and sophomore Cole Rosenberger. Swiercz appeared in all games during the 2015 season and started 11. Meanwhile, Rosenberger started in every game last year and tied for the team lead in assists. Sophomores Arden Chew, Max Song, Sebastian Salathe and Gerrit Church, who all saw the field in their rookie seasons, will join the midfield as well.

Up the field, the Jays are

led by senior Samy Ramadane, who was the team's top goal scorer despite only playing in 10 games due to injury in the 2015 season. Forward Victor Osio, who added three goals of his own, finished tied with Ramadane for the team lead in assists with three. Sophomore Hayden Helm saw significant game action last year, scoring three points, and is expected to play a large role in the coming season.

The Blue Jays opened the year with an away game against Goucher

that stretched into the second period of overtime. The Jays outshot the hosts 28-4, and even took the lead in the 71st minute following a strike by midfielder Drew Collins. Hopkins would come close to a win but conceded a goal in the 87th minute and were forced to settle for the tie.

At the first home game of the year, Hopkins fell behind visitors Bethany College early on in the 19th minute. The Blue Jays would not capitalize on scoring opportunities until the 82nd minute, when

Ramadane sent a free kick to assist Muniz. Despite opportunities throughout the final minutes and into overtime, the Blue Jays were again forced to settle for a tie.

Hopkins did come away with a 1-0 win against Merchant Marine, their first of the season. Osio put the team up for good in the 37th minute with a strike from inside the box off of an assist from Collins. The Blue Jays were backed by a shutout performance in net from See, to seal the 1-0 victory.

Field Hockey vanquishes tough Generals squad

FIELD HOCKEY, FROM B12
20th season coaching at Hopkins.

The hard work put in during this off-season allowed the Blue Jays to live up to their impressive 12-1 record against the Generals.

On Saturday, Sept. 10, the Jays will travel to St. John Fisher College in Rochester, N.Y. The St. John Fisher Cardinals fell 6-0 to Skidmore College in their season opener last Thursday.

The Jays will face the

Cardinals at Growney Stadium at noon and will look to continue their impressive early season play. The Jays are certainly confident that they will have a strong season.

They have displayed incredible resilience as a team, and are equipped to handle the challenges that come their way during the season.

A Centennial Conference title is certainly not out of the question for this team.

SPORTS

DID YOU KNOW?

Junior Running Back Ryan Carey was named Co-Centennial Offensive Player of the Week following his four touchdown performance against Washington & Lee.

CALENDAR

Saturday
W. Volleyball @ Eastern: 10 a.m.
W. Soccer vs. TCNJ: 1 p.m.
Football @ Susquehanna: 1 p.m.
M. Soccer vs. Gwynedd-Mercy: 4 p.m.

AL East gears up for the home stretch

By DANIEL LANDY
Staff Writer

It is hard to believe that summer is coming to a close and with it baseball's regular season. There has already been a lot to remember from this 2016 season: Giancarlo Stanton's total annihilation of his opponents in the Home Run Derby, the Chicago Cubs' complete destruction of every other team in the standings, David Ortiz's extraordinary and MVP-caliber final season and Alex Rodriguez's underwhelming and not so MVP-caliber final season.

Some divisions have seemingly already been decided, while others remain murky. As the days until October dwindle down, there will be no storyline that provides as much excitement as the three-team, neck and neck battle in the American League East.

Prior to the start of the season, the AL East appeared to be a dogfight, with any team capable of winning the division. Of the five teams, the Tampa Bay Rays have been the biggest disappointment, since they have spent a majority of the season in the division cellar. In New York, the Yankees are just barely hanging onto the slightest of playoff hopes. After the All-Star Break, the Bronx Bombers seemed to sneak back into the race, following a mediocre first half. However, they have been unable to make a major push in recent weeks. Consequently, it looks like they will be on the outside looking in come playoff time.

Meanwhile, Boston, Baltimore and Toronto won the AL East in 2013, 2014 and 2015, respectively, so it is no surprise that they are the three teams jostling for the division crown once again. Throughout the season, the Orioles, Red Sox and Blue Jays have pushed each other back and forth, moving up and down the AL East standings without gaining any sizeable leads. Meanwhile, the two teams not in first place have held the two wild card spots for a majority of the season.

No American League teams should be as well suited as the Orioles,

Sox and Jays to reach the World Series. Each of them has already played numerous playoff-caliber games against the others and will play quite a few more before the regular season concludes. While none of these teams possess the best record in the American League, the simple explanation is that they have been beating up on each other throughout the entire season. Entering September, the Orioles and Red Sox have split the season series 6-6 with seven games remaining against each other.

The Blue Jays lead the Orioles 9-7 in the season series with three games left between the two teams. Finally, the Blue Jays lead the Red Sox 7-6 with six games left on the calendar between the teams. The experience of playing in so many big games throughout the season should prove key come October.

All of these teams have a favorable balance of youngsters and veterans, reliable fielding, solid starting pitching and elite bullpens. Most of all, each of these three teams have deep and dangerous lineups. These three teams truly have all of the pieces in place to make a long playoff run.

Digging deeper through the team, the O's offense has been extremely strong from top to bottom. Manny Machado has followed up an MVP-caliber 2015 season with an even better 2016, during which he has turned into one of the game's best all-around superstars. Meanwhile, Machado's best friend and fellow 24-year-old, Jonathan Schoop, is having a breakout season and has a promising future as Baltimore's second baseman. Sluggers Mark Trumbo and Chris Davis have done their part, as have team leaders Adam Jones and J. J. Hardy and offseason acquisitions Pedro Álvarez and Hyun-soo Kim.

Players up and down the lineup have provided timely hitting and extraordinary power throughout the season. The Orioles lead the league in home runs and have six players that have eclipsed the 20 HR mark including Trumbo, who leads all of baseball in long balls. On the mound, the O's have demonstrated significant improvement to their starting rotation that looked mediocre at best earlier in the season.

Chris Tillman has been a consistent presence atop the rotation throughout the season, while former first round picks Dylan Bundy and Kevin Gausman have come on strong

Football makes early statement in opener



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The Football team opened their season last Thursday against Washington & Lee, putting up over 500 yards in a dominant 45-29 victory. Junior running back Ryan Cary racked up over 200 total offensive yards in the heated contest and scored four touchdowns for the Jays. The four touchdowns tied the school record for most scores recorded in a single game.

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NFL Season Preview: Making "the leap"

INSIDE

Sports Editor Andrew Johnson discusses parity in the National Football League and offers up four teams who he believes will surge into contention this season.

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Season Preview: Women's Soccer

With a deep, experienced and talented roster, the defending Centennial Conference Champions have high expectations entering the new season.

Page B10

Cross Country Squads Dominate Openers

After the successful 2015 season, it is no surprise that both the men's and women's cross country teams dominated their respective fields in the first race of the 2016 season.

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INSIDE

Field Hockey opens strong against Generals

By EMILIE HOFFER
Sports Editor

Last Friday night, the Blue Jays won an exciting season opener against the Washington & Lee Generals. Junior defensive player Francesca Cali had a particularly notable performance to help the Jays solidify their win.

After starting in every game last season and leading the team in defensive saves, the junior returned to anchor the Jays' back line. The multifaceted defender also posed a threat offensively, as she finished the game with one assist in the first half and the winning goal in the second. However, approaching the first game of the season, Cali admitted the Jays had many nerves to overcome.

"It's hard in the first game because there are so many nerves and as a passing-focused team, missing connections really hurts our game," Cali said. "Our plan was just to play our own game - simple, scrappy, and disciplined hockey."

However, the Jays were able to shake off these early jitters and deliver a strong performance once Friday night came around. Although the Generals were the first to score at the 15-minute mark, the Jays answered back quickly when given the opportunity at the corner. It took just five minutes for the Jays to tie up the game by making the play off of a corner penalty. Cali would make her first

big play of the game by assisting freshman midfielder Katie McErlean with her first career goal as a Jay. McErlean sent the ball soaring to the low left post past the Generals' goalie.

The game remained tied 1-1 going into the second half. As the team settled into the second half, they were able to take control of the game and play with the disciplined style they had been practicing during their off-season. Again, the Jays would take advantage of a corner penalty.

Cali, after assisting her teammate in the first goal of the season, went on to score her first career game-winning goal. Normally on the other side of the field, Cali saw her opportunity during the set-play and delivered the game winning score for the Blue Jays. Junior forward Clare Kavanagh then struck at the corner to assist Cali, who sent the ball sailing past the General's goalie into the upper right corner in the 46th minute of the game.

Both of the Jays goals would come from penalties off the corners, a clear testament to their work during the off-season.

"We worked hard this preseason, especially on revamping our penalty set-plays, which was definitely visible in the game with both goals off corners," Cali said.

After finishing 7-10 in the division last year, the win against

the Generals is a hopeful start to the 2016 season for the Jays. The team will be returning seven starters from 2015, including the top five goal-scorers. In addition, senior Zoey Atabek and junior Greta Helvie returned, both of whom have displayed excellent poise in goal and

bring experience to the position. Atabek started all 17 games as a sophomore and will be returning after not playing in the 2015 season. The Jays are optimistic about bouncing back after the 2015 season under Head Coach Megan Callahan, who will be serving her

SEE FIELD HOCKEY, B11

Men's Soccer shoots for Centennial crown

By GAURAV VERMA
Sports Editor

The Hopkins' Men's Soccer team opens the year ranked fourth in the Centennial Conference following a heartbreaking end to the 2015 season, when they suffered a loss to Haverford College in the Conference semifinals.

Entering the season, the team lost a trio of all-Conference selections: Forward Eric Buck, midfielder Ian Heinrich and defender Andrew Park. Park was also a member of the Third Team NSCAA All-Region team, while Buck was named to the ECAC All-South first team.

Still, the Blue Jays returned just as talented, led by senior midfielder Samy Ramadane, a third-team all conference player last season, along with co-captains senior Victor Osio and junior Michael Swiercz. The team also welcomed eight freshmen to Homewood this fall.

Senior Bryan See will

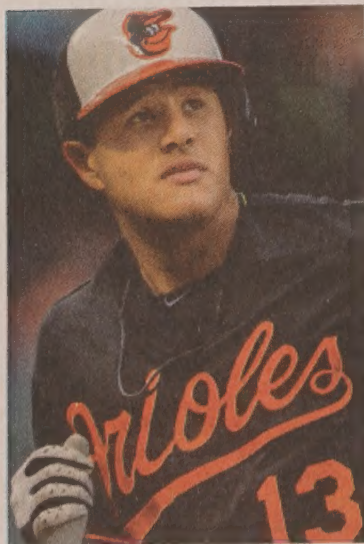
return as the team's starting goalkeeper. See played nearly every minute in his debut season for Hopkins in 2015 after transferring from UC Irvine. He posted a .776 save percentage and allowed only 1.21 goals per game.

He won 11 games with five shutouts, and had an impressive 374 minute run without letting in a single goal. Junior Jonah Muniz will be the team's most experienced defender on the field and will be accompanied by two veterans, senior Matt Williams and junior Eric Herbert.

The team will have to rely on several newcomers, including a quartet of freshmen defenders: Connor Jacobs, Nathan Keeney, Brent Thomas and Zach Epstein. Ultimately, the success of this unit will largely determine the performance of the team this season.

To help the youngsters in the back, Hopkins returns with an experienced group of midfielders,

SEE M. SOCCER, B11



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Manny Machado is having an MVP-caliber season.

SEE MLB, B10